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PM Modi arrives in Cyprus for 2-day visit

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U Mumba bags its maiden UTT crown

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Axiom launch scheduled for June 19, says Minister

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), which is set to carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station (ISS), is scheduled to take off on June 19 "as of now", Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said at a press conference here on Sunday.

This comes a day after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had first declared and then deleted the date of the launch, which has been repeatedly postponed from its original schedule of May 29.

The Minister said June 19 was "being seriously considered" for the launch, but there were "imponderables" such as the weather and other factors.

He played down perceived differences between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX, which owns and operates the Falcon-9 launch vehicle for the Ax-4 mission, on the threat posed by the discovery of an "oxygen leak"' during an engine test on June 8.

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Iran vows severe response to Israel as crisis intensifies

Iranian flags fly as fire and smoke rise from the Sharan oil depot in Tehran, following Israeli strikes early on Sunday. REUTERS

Reuters
JERUSALEM/DUBAI

Israel and Iran launched fresh attacks on each other overnight into Sunday, killing scores and raising fears of a wider conflict.

While the Israeli military has warned Iranians living near weapons facilities to evacuate, Iran's armed forces on Sunday told residents of Israel to leave the vicinity of "vital areas" for their safety.

Israel's military said several sites were hit by the latest Iranian missile barrage on Sunday night.

In Iran, images from the capital Tehran showed the night sky lit up by a huge blaze at a fuel depot after Israel began strikes against Iran's oil and gas sector – raising the stakes for the global economy and the functioning of the Iranian state.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the country's responses will grow "more decisive and severe" if Israel's hostile actions continue.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that armed forces have destroyed Iran's principal uranium enrichment facility at Natanz.

U.S. President Donald Trump early on Sunday said the two sides will have peace "soon", adding that many unspecified meetings were taking place.

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Helicopter crash kills 7 along Char Dham route

FIR filed against chopper company for not following DGCA rules on flying in bad weather; State suspends services to review experience of operators and pilots after fifth crash in two months

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A helicopter ferrying pilgrims from the Kedarnath temple crashed near Guptkashi on Sunday morning, killing all seven people on board, a two-year-old child among them.

The accident likely occurred due to low visibility caused by bad weather, officials said. The deceased passengers are Vikram Rawat, a representative of the Badri-Kedar Temple Committee, who was returning to his home in Ukimath after official work at Kedarnath; Vinod Devi, 66, and her granddaughter Tushti Singh, 19, from Uttar Pradesh; and Rajkumar Jaiswal, 41, his wife, Shraddaha, and their two-year-old daughter, Kashi, from Maharashtra. The couple's son had stayed with his grandfather in Yavatmal. The pilot of the helicopter was Lt. Col. Rajveer Singh Chauhan (retd), 39, who had served the Army for over 15 years

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) said the accident involved a Bell 407 helicopter (call sign VT-BKA) of Aryan Aviation operating in the Kedarnath temple sector. It took off from Guptkashi at 5 a.m. and landed at Kedarnath at 5.10 a.m. "At 5.18 am, it flew back from Kedarnath to Guptkashi but crashed near Gaurikund. The SDRF worked for five hours to retrieve the charred bodies from the debris of the chopper," said Arpan Raghuvansi, SDRF chief in Uttarakhand.

The Rudraprayag police have filed an FIR against Aryan Aviation. The company is accused of not following the protocols laid down by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on checking the weather conditions before a flight.

Burned out: Rescue personnel at the site of the crash near Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Sunday. PTI

The company has announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

Safety review

The Uttarakhand government suspended all helicopter services till Monday to review the high-altitude experience of all helicopter operators and pilots as Sunday's crash marked the fifth helicopter accident – and the second with fatalities – on the Char Dham Yatra route in the State since the pilgrimage began on April 30.

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One killed as landslip hits Kedarnath path

NEW DELHI
A person was killed and two sustained injuries after a landslip, triggered by incessant rain, hit the Junglechatti walking route of Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Sunday. Authorities suspended the Kedarnath yatra from Sonprayag until further notice. Citing safety concerns amid adverse weather, the police appealed to devotees coming to the Kedarnath temple to remain safe wherever they were, and said security was being provided. » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Order on ceasing bike taxi services comes into effect

BENGALURU
Starting Monday, app-based bike taxi operations are expected to halt across Karnataka, following the High Court's refusal to stay an earlier order mandating the suspension of services. » PAGE 2

Branch of tree falls on biker

BENGALURU
A 29-year-old man was critically injured when a branch of a tree fell on him while he was riding his two-wheeler on Brahma Chaitanya Road in Hanumantha Nagar on Sunday afternoon. » PAGE 2

Karnataka tops in wind power capacity addition

BENGALURU
Karnataka increased its wind power capacity by 1,331.48 MW, securing first place in the country for its wind power capacity addition in 2024-25.
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DNA profiling identifies 86 victims of AI crash; cockpit voice recorder retrieved

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Authorities at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital have identified 86 victims of the Air India flight AI-171 crash through DNA profiling, Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said on Sunday, while official added that 33 bodies were already handed over to grieving families.

Rescue agencies also secured the cockpit voice recorder from the black box of the Boeing 787-7 aircraft on Sunday, two days after the flight data recorder was retrieved, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The State Forensic Science Laboratory unit and the National Forensic Sciences University team are working to match more DNA samples.

"Progress continues in identifying victims. Our thoughts are with the families," Mr. Sanghavi said.

While Air India stated it had established contact with the next of kin of all passengers and crew members, officials said over 400 family members have reached Ahmedabad.

The mortal remains of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, who was on board the flight, were identified through DNA samples, Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel confirmed. "The body has been identified, and we are coordinating with the family to transport his mortal remains to Rajkot," Mr. Patel said. Rupani's son, Rishabh Rupani, had submitted his DNA sample on Saturday.

The Minister also announced that the funeral of the former Chief Minister will be held at Rajkot on Monday with full state honours. "Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel informed Vijay Rupani's family as soon as the DNA match confirmation was received," Mr. Patel said.The family will receive his mortal remains from the Civil Hospital at 11.30 a.m. tomorrow (Monday)... the last rites will be performed at 6 p.m. with full state honours."

Tearful farewell: Relatives of Shagun Modi, who lost her life in the crash, at her funeral in Ahmedabad on Sunday. VIJAY SONEJI

Personalised aid

Air India said that each affected family has been assigned at least one caregiver to provide personalised assistance. "The solemn process of handing over the mortal remains and their personal effects to the next of kin is ongoing. Air India will be assisting in the movement out of Gujarat and repatriation initiatives, where appropriate," it said.

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Four dead as bridge from British era collapses in Pune dist.

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Four persons, including a six-year-old boy, were killed and over 40 suffered injuries when a British-era bridge collapsed near Kundamala village in Pune district of Maharashtra on Sunday, officials said. Six of the injured are in critical condition.

Officials said a large crowd had gathered on the century-old iron bridge over the Indrayani river when a portion of the structure collapsed. The site had seen a rise in tourists over the weekend. The incident occurred between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. The tourists were swept away by the strong currents, officials said, adding that the 250-metre-long bridge was three to four foot wide.

Three of the deceased were men. Around 50 people were rescued while 42 suffered injuries, officials further said.

Condoling the deaths, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "I was deeply saddened to hear about the bridge collapse. I pay my heartfelt tributes to the deceased."

Later, the Chief Minister announced a solatium of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. The government will also bear the cost of treatment of the injured.

'Warnings ignored'

An NDRF official at the site told *The Hindu*, "Despite the warning sign at the entrance of the bridge, which was weak, rusty and on the verge of collapse, tourists were walking on it. Some even rode their motorbikes across the bridge to reach the other side, a selfie spot. We rescued many people who were swept away by the river. The bridge collapsed into the fast-flowing river."

According to the Talegaon Police, the injured persons were admitted to three hospitals – Pawana Multi-speciality Hospital, Atharv Hospital and Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education and Research.

Four years ago, a signboard reading "Caution: Accident Site" was placed by the Talegaon Police and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation at the bridge as it was in a poor state. But tourists, mostly from Pune and Lonavala, had kept risking their lives to get a few photographs clicked, a police official said.

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader Supriya Sule said she has been raising the issue for months.

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A new dawn — how braveheart Bavuma and his men defied the odds

The skipper battled on despite a dodgy hamstring to support Markram whose hundred led to one of the finest hours in the country's cricketing history; a collective effort saw the Proteas end a 27-year wait

R. Kaushik

As Temba Bavuma strolled the Lord's outfield on Saturday afternoon, the mace in one hand and young son Lihle in his other arm, a sea of emotion would have swirled through his mind. Just moments previously, he had helped end years of heartbreak, masterminding an extraordinary five-wicket conquest of Australia in the final of the World Test Championship. Bavuma wasn't just the captain of the all-conquering South African team, he was its leader in every sense of the word. It wasn't just redemption time for the Proteas, but also vindication of Bavuma's faith in himself, of the establishment's faith in him.

There are certain tags that simply refuse to go away. They surface without warning, and then develop a life of their own, mushrooming beyond imagination to stick like an unrelenting leech. Most of these labels are negative, insulting even. Until 14 June 2025, South Africa were saddled with the unflattering tag of 'chokers'. No more, not ever.

So often have South Africa stumbled with the finish line in sight that even they might have started questioning themselves, wondering nervously if they had it in them to breast the tape. Successive generations of wonderful cricketers - and let's make no mistake, South Africa have had them by the bushel since their return to international cricket in 1991 - found the knockout stage of ICC tournaments a step too far. Their more recent meltdown came just under 12 months back, in the final of the T20 World Cup in Bridgetown. With 30 needed off 30 deliveries to best Rohit Sharma's India, the Proteas found ways and means to self-destruct; India were brilliant, of course, spearheaded by that champion paceman, Jasprit Bumrah. But they will be the first to admit that South Africa's generosity and munificence too played a big part in their seven-run heist.

South Africa's captain that fateful Saturday afternoon was Aiden Markram, a terrific batter who, somewhat like KL Rahul, doesn't have the numbers that his skills demand. After 46 Tests, he only averages 36.50, far too few for someone of his ability. The Kensington Oval must have been fresh in memory when Markram approached the Lord's showdown, believing that he owed his team a few. A first-innings blob wouldn't have helped, but he came roaring back, first with the scalp of Steve Smith with his off-spin, then with a century for the ages that helped South Africa mount the joint second-highest successful chase at Lord's.

GETTY IMAGES

Hot favourites

Australia were the clear favourites going into the match, despite a rejigged batting order with Marnus Labuschagne opening for the first time. Put in by Bavuma, they scrambled to 212, then rolled their opponents over for 138 on the back of Captain Fantastic Pat Cummins' six-wicket burst. The defending WTC champions (at the time) are masters of tightening the screws, of elevating capitalising on front-running into a fine art. A lead of 74 was seen as decisive. The consensus was that anything above 250 in the fourth innings was mountainesque. And so, when last pair Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood combined for a 59-run stand to boost the total to 207 and their overall advantage to 281, well...

South Africa had to battle not just the weight of Lord's history, their own previous failings and a fired-up Australian outfit, they also had to explode the myth that they had taken the 'easy' route to the title round. All six of their series in the two-year WTC league stage were two-Test affairs. They didn't face either Australia or England, and they were held to a 1-1 draw by India in January 2024 after suffering a two-day hammering on a terrible surface in Cape Town. No one seemed to care that they had won seven Tests on the bounce to secure their place in the final, or that India sealed their own fate by losing six of their last eight Tests, including three in a row at home to New Zealand.

Bavuma and the other senior players were nonchalant outwardly at the barrage of criticism and thinly veiled innuendo, but they must have been hurting at the casual dismissal of their roaring run. The only way to silence the critics was with a chase for history to remember. Who better to mastermind it than the captain that let it slip away in Bridgetown and the captain who had won eight of his nine previous Tests in charge?

Game-changer

Bavuma joined Markram in the second innings with South Africa on 70 for two, a decent start but with plenty of work to do. He should have been dismissed for two but Smith, donning a helmet and standing close in at second slip because numerous deliveries previously had 'died', was taken by surprise by the speed and height with which the edge rushed to him. Not only did the former skipper shell the catch, he also dislocated his right little finger and took no further part in the match. It was a significant development for more reasons than one.

Where Bavuma lived to fight another day, Australia were deprived of the Smith wisdom that Cummins has so come to rely on. Perhaps there would have been no change in the script even otherwise, but Australia seemed a little flat and bereft of inspiration in Smith's absence. No exaggeration - one only has to go back to Indore and March 2023 to realise how transformed a side Australia were when Smith took over the captaincy after Cummins was unfortunately forced to return home owing to his mother's illness.

Bavuma's delight at being let off quickly turned to despair when he did his left hamstring, a little later. He had only reached six and South Africa were nearly 200 away, so he wasn't abandoning the ship.

The 35-year-old has a history of injuries, but this wouldn't bury his ambitions. He hobbled along, overcoming the pain barrier, refusing to let physical discomfort or the constant chirping from the Australians - he later revealed that the Aussies had invoked the 'choke' more than once - disrupt his concentration.

Where Bavuma was the braveheart, Markram was magnificent. Poised and assured, he gave the impression that he would see it home. There was a certain sense of calm that percolated through to the balcony at Lord's, where his excited but subdued mates willed him on. Willed Bavuma on. Willed the chase on. They were soon reminded that they were not in a minority; Lord's was awash with the Protean green, while in the commentary box and in the stands, former skippers Shaun Pollock, Graeme Smith and A.B. de Villiers stood in solidarity. As did most of the cricket world, which believed that South Africa deserved their place in the sun now, more than ever before.

When Kyle Verreynne brought up the winning run, tears flowed unchecked. Tears of ecstasy, of course, but also of relief. The drought had ended, the monkey had been flung off the back. One couldn't shake off the feeling that even while history was being made, this was also history in the making. It will take a bold individual to preclude South Africa collecting more silverware in the future.

As in such instances, South Africa had numerous heroes - not just in the final, but throughout the campaign. Their bowling superstar was the outrageously gifted and unassuming Kagiso Rabada, who came into the title clash with a cloud hanging over his head. Rabada had just served out a one-month ban (during IPL 2025) after testing positive for a banned recreational drug.

He admirably took responsibility for his action, but he was also convinced that as silly as that might have been, it would not define him. He got down to business emphatically, with five wickets in Australia's first innings and four in the second. If Marco Jansen had been his ally the first time around, then it was Lungi Ngidi who became his partner in crime in the second dig, breaking the game open with the scalps of Smith, first-innings top-scorer Beau Webster and Cummins.

On their way to Lord's, South Africa had eked out performances from so many - Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs and David Beddingham and Wiaan Mulder, and also from the superb left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who wept unashamedly after victory had been achieved. There was Markram, yes, but few shone brighter than Bavuma, him of the hamstring strain of the final which didn't prevent him from helping Markram add 147 for the third wicket.

The captain, who has won nine and drawn the other in his first 10 Tests at the helm (no other Test skipper has escaped defeat in his first ten outings), averaged 59.25 in the two-year WTC cycle culminating in the Lord's faceoff. He might be the shortest physically on the park, but stands tallest among his colleagues, his legend having grown manifold following his heroic batting at Lord's. In the 33 years since they first took part in an ICC event - at the 50-over World Cup in Australia and New Zealand - South Africa had lost one final, 12 semifinals and two quarterfinals.

Amidst this heap of rubble, their triumph in the inaugural Champions Trophy (then known as the ICC KnockOut Trophy) in Bangladesh in 1998 under Hansie Cronje has almost been forgotten. The roars of this seismic success under Bavuma, however, will reverberate for a long, long time.

It's been a difficult time for the country on various counts but this win, fashioned by men from varied and diverse backgrounds, will offer hope. What Bavuma's boys have shown is that unity of purpose, a common goal and a burning fire can make even the most impossible appear fairly commonplace.

Cricket in South Africa won't reach the dizzying heights of popularity it enjoys in India, but now more than ever, it looms as a vehicle for change, as a beacon of optimism.

That alone makes the end of a long, agonising wait well worth it.

THE GIST

So often have South Africa stumbled with the finish line in sight that even they might have started questioning themselves, wondering nervously if they had it in them to breast the tape

South Africa's captain that fateful Saturday afternoon was Aiden Markram, a terrific batter who doesn't have the numbers that his skills demand. Where Bavuma was the braveheart, Markram was magnificent. Poised and assured, he gave the impression that he would see it home

What Bavuma's boys have shown is that unity of purpose, a common goal and a burning fire can make even the most impossible appear fairly commonplace

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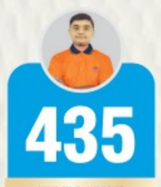
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SAFA SAIF QURAISHI	277	585	+ 308	PAVAN KATTAMANCHI	168	422	+ 254
KOTHA KAMALA RAO	242	562	+ 320	AKANKSHYA SWAIN	155	415	+ 260
P V SAI JITHENDRA NAATH	258	543	+ 285	SREEJA EDURU	206	414	+ 208
MOKATI SRINADH	143	474	+ 331	GANTA BHOOMIKA	158	407	+ 249
ABHILASH CHILUVERU	267	469	+ 202	RAM KARAN SINGH	199	403	+ 204
K V M SRI HARSHA	183	461	+ 278	KONDRATHI ARUNTEJ	170	400	+ 230
S NANDINI	146	433	+ 287	SIRISHA SANAPATHI	133	399	+ 266
GADDAM CHARAN TEJA	122	431	+ 309	WALTHATI PAWANKUMAR	172	379	+ 207
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J BG-BGE

Man critical after tree branch falls on him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old Human Resources (HR) executive working with an IT firm was critically injured when a branch of a roadside tree fell on him while he was riding his two-wheeler on Brahma Chaitanya Road in Hanumantha Nagar on Sunday afternoon.

The victim has been identified as Akshay Shivaram, a resident of Srinivasa Nagar.

According to the police, Akshay was returning home after buying essentials for home when a tree branch fell on him near the Brahma Chaitanya Mandir around 1 p.m. on Sunday. Akshay lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a car parked on the roadside. Since he was not wearing a helmet, he sustained a severe head injury, the police said.

Akshay underwent a surgery and was being treated in the ICU, they added.

Sources said the tree branch might have fallen due to the strong winds and light rain.

Bike taxi operations may grind to a halt

A Division Bench of the High Court, on June 13, upheld a single judge order dated April 2, which had directed all bike taxi services to wind up operations within six weeks

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Starting Monday, app-based bike taxi operations are expected to come to a halt across the State, following the Karnataka High Court's refusal to stay an earlier order mandating the suspension of such services unless the government introduces regulatory norms under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

A Division Bench of the High Court, on June 13, upheld a single judge order dated April 2, which had directed all bike taxi services to wind up operations within six weeks. Although an extension was granted until June 15, the deadline now marks the end of bike taxi rides in the State unless a regulatory framework is introduced.

A senior official from the Karnataka Transport Department confirmed that it is preparing to implement the court's order and will not permit the continuation of bike taxi services beyond the stipulated deadline. However, regarding the regulatory framework the officer declined to comment.

For several commuters, especially those dependent on public transport, bike taxis provided a cheaper last-mile solution FILE PHOTO

The move is expected to affect thousands of riders and commuters. An executive from a leading bike taxi aggregator platform, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that over six lakh individuals in Karnataka depend on bike taxi gigs for their livelihood. "Most of them earn around ₹35,000 a month, and this ban could push many families into financial distress," the official noted.

Impact of ban

The impact of the ban is twofold: while it disrupts the lives of gig workers, it also leaves commuters stranded. For several commuters, especially those dependent on public transport, bike taxis provided a cheaper last-mile solution. Commuters said that the services were not only cheaper but also faster, helping daily office-goers and students navigate city traffic with ease.

A Whitfield resident and daily commuter, Rohan Imdapura, said, "Bike taxis were a lifesaver for people like me. Getting from home to the metro station used to cost barely ₹30-₹40. Now I will be forced to rely on autorickshaws, which are expensive and not always dependable."

The court's decision, however, has been welcomed by autorickshaw drivers, who have been at loggerheads with bike taxi operators over what they describe as unfair competition. Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, said, "This verdict is a huge relief. Bike taxis were running without clear regulations, which affected our earnings and posed safety risks to commuters. The government must now ensure there are no illegal operations continuing under the radar."

Uncertain future

Meanwhile, representatives of bike taxi riders said the decision has left thousands in limbo. Adi Narayana, president of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, said many riders are approaching the association's offices seeking clarity on their future. "Most of our captains have EMIs to pay, families to feed, and rent to cover. This is not just about losing a job, it's about losing the ability to survive. Will the government offer any support?" he asked.

Rapido, one of the leading platforms operating bike taxis in the State, has responded to the High Court's ruling by confirming that it will comply with the directive effective June 16. While the company clarified that it is not a party to the current legal case, it acknowledged the situation and said it remains committed to acting as a responsible participant in the State's transport ecosystem.

"This is a difficult time for our captains, who depend on us for their main source of income. They have played a key role in enabling affordable, last-mile transportation for millions across Karnataka," a Rapido spokesperson said.

The company stated it is actively engaging with the Karnataka Transport Department to develop a regulatory framework that is not only lawful but also viable for all stakeholders involved. It stressed that the safety of commuters and the well-being of gig workers will continue to be at the heart of its approach.

"We remain optimistic that ongoing discussions with the authorities will lead to a balanced policy framework, similar to those in other States and Union Territories," the spokesperson added.

Story so far

Karnataka High Court has refused to stay the single judge order banning bike taxis

- **Deadline ends:** Services expected to stop from Monday
- **Jobs at risk:** Over 6 lakh riders face uncertainty
- **Mixed views:** Auto drivers welcome move; commuters and gig workers upset
- **What's next:** Rapido seeks policy fix; government to enforce ban

Two-day buyer-seller meet from June 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Charaka Women's Co-operative Society in association with Desi Trust and Samagata Foundation is organising a 'Buyer-Seller Meet' of producers and buyers of naturally dyed handwoven fabrics on June 20 and 21 in the city. The exhibition will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m..

The event being held at Samagata Foundation in Church Street, will bring together bulk buyers and designers who are interested in sourcing authentic naturally dyed handwoven fabrics in direct conversation with producers.

The exhibition will showcase a collection of latest designs, innovations, possibilities in fabrics, including sarees, stoles and other off-the-loom range of products, states a release by the society.

Two workshops will also be conducted for interested participants on prior registration.

For more details: 9591319907.

Man killed hours after release on bail, two accused shot in the leg and arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a dramatic turn of events, J. J. Nagar Police on Sunday opened fire and nabbed two accused who were on the run after stabbing a 26-year-old man to death hours after he was released on bail from Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Saturday.

The accused Deepu, 28 and Arun, 27 were allegedly hiding in a forest area in R. R. Nagar, when the police went to nab them. They allegedly assaulted police officials, following which police claimed to have shot in the air as warning and later shot at their legs and arrested them. Both are being treated at a hospital.

The duo had on Saturday late night stabbed Vijay, owner of a footwear store in Kalasipalya, to death. A few months ago, Arun and Vijay had a bitter fight, during which Vijay had stabbed Arun. While Arun survived the attack, Kalasipalya Police arrested Vijay, booking him for attempt to murder. He was released on bail in the case from Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Saturday.

Hours later Arun, along with his associate Deepu, confronted Vijay in Janata colony in J. J. Nagar and stabbed him multiple times after a heated argument. The profusely bleeding Vijay was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his death hours later.

J. J. Nagar Police who took up the investigation into the murder case, tracked down Arun and Deepu, to a forested area in R. R. Nagar where they had been hiding after stabbing Vijay to death hours earlier.

The police started a combing operation and made an announcement warning the duo to surrender.

However, the duo attacked police personnel in an attempt to flee, following which they were shot at, police claimed.

The duo has been booked for not only murder, but also for assaulting government servants while on duty.

City police chief urges women personnel to take up crime investigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh, on Sunday, encouraged the women personnel to join mainstream policing rather than opting for soft jobs.

Seemanth Kumar Singh

Mr. Singh was speaking at a meeting with women police personnel above the rank of sub-inspectors in Bengaluru.

"A majority of the women personnel prefer soft jobs rather than field work, citing gender biases and other reasons. Senior officials present at the meeting motivated us to take up crime investigation, maintaining law and order and helping women in distress," an official who attended the meeting said.

The meeting also discussed the safety of women and children and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be carried out during any eventualities.

The personnel were urged to increase the outreach of the various women's safety initiatives taken up by the city police under the Nirbhaya Project and train women on how to avail these services.

Transport Minister urges strict action over incidents of attack on BMTC staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

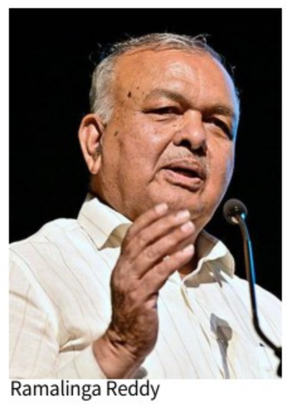
Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to Home Minister G. Parameshwara urging strict police action against those attacking Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) employees.

The Minister highlighted a recent incident in Bellandur where a woman passenger allegedly hit a BMTC driver with her slipper after he reportedly failed to stop the bus at her desired location.

Case booked

An FIR has been registered at the Bellandur Police Station in connection with the case.

"This is deeply shocking, especially since such incidents have occurred repeatedly," Mr. Reddy said in his letter while adding that despite earlier complaints and directions to the Bengaluru Police Commissioner, including a personal briefing by the BMTC Managing Director, such attacks continue unabated.



Ramalinga Reddy

In his letter, Mr. Reddy stressed that physical assault and verbal abuse of transport staff, particularly drivers and conductors, are on the rise.

"Some miscreants have even attempted life-threatening attacks. There was a previous incident where a staff member was attacked with a knife," he stated.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to protecting the staff of BMTC and other State-run transport corporations such as KSRTC.

> Such behaviour cannot be tolerated. Legal protection must be ensured for our employees
>
> **RAMALINGA REDDY**
> Minister for Transport

The Minister further said that while disciplinary action is taken against staff members found guilty of misconduct, the public taking the law into one's their hands is unacceptable.

He urged the Home Department to take stringent action against the accused in such cases and develop a permanent solution to prevent further incidents.

"Such behaviour cannot be tolerated. Legal protection must be ensured for our employees," Mr. Reddy said in the letter.

Researchers from CeNS develop new catalyst for sustainable oxygen electrocatalysis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

However, these technologies typically face challenges like slow reaction speeds, and high costs due to limited availability and expense of the precious metals involved, say the researchers

A new catalyst has been designed by the researchers from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, (CeNS) in Bengaluru which apart from making oxygen-related catalytic reactions faster is also affordable and environment friendly.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, electrocatalysis involving oxygen underpins numerous clean energy technologies, such as splitting water to produce hydrogen, creating clean fuels, and manufacturing chemicals like hydrogen peroxide.

However, these technologies typically face challenges like slow reaction speeds, high energy demands, and high costs due to the limited availability and expense of the precious metals involved.

Besides, traditionally, catalysts used in these processes rely on expensive precious metals like platinum or ruthenium making the processes costly.

The CeNS researchers have developed a new catalyst that uses nickel selenide enhanced by precisely adding a small amount of iron (Fe) which has the potential of not only reducing costs significantly, but also improving the performance.

The team of scientists from CeNS began with a special material known as a metal-organic framework (MOF) which are porous, crystalline structures useful for chemical reactions but have limited electrical conductivity.

"The electronic structure of the MOF has been modulated by Fe doping to improve catalytic active sites. To improve conductivity, researchers converted MOFs into carbon-rich materials through a heating process known as pyrolysis, enhancing their ability to conduct electricity effectively," the department said.

It added that after pyrolysis, researchers introduced selenium, creating two highly effective catalysts known as $NixFe1-xSe_2$-NC and $Ni_3-xFexSe_4$-NC.

"Iron doping significantly improved the catalyst's electronic interactions, creating more active sites for reactions and optimizing how reaction intermediates bind to the catalyst surface. These enhancements made the catalyst exceptionally efficient for two key processes: the Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER), which produces oxygen, and the Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR), which converts oxygen into valuable chemicals," it added.

Extensive testing by the researchers showed that the catalyst, $NixFe1-xSe_2$-NC@400, achieved impressive performance

"In ORR tests for hydrogen peroxide production, this catalyst also exceeded the performance of industry-standard platinum-based catalysts, providing better reaction speeds and higher efficiency," it said.

The department said that detailed analysis revealed that iron doping changed the catalyst's electronic structure in a beneficial way, increasing active sites and facilitating better electron transport.

Landslip near Nemmar: Vehicle movement affected

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Repeated incidents of landslip on National Highway 169 near Nemmar in Sringeri taluk disrupted vehicular movement on the road that connects Sringeri with S.K. Border and Karkala, on Sunday.

The local administration has decided to ban the movement of vehicles on the stretch till 8 a.m. on Monday. The officers are hopeful of restoring it by 9 a.m. on Monday.

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Shivashankar P.M.
(Advocate)
523, 4th Cross, NGEF Layout,
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India has long been the world's go-to supplier for generic drugs, but as AI sweeps through the global life sciences industry, there's a sense something much bigger is in the works. REUTERS

AI and biomanufacturing: can the policies match our ambitions?

When an AI model is used to control a bioreactor, how do we know that it's reliable? Who checks that the data it was trained on is representative of India's diverse conditions, or that it won't make a catastrophic error if something unexpected happens? These are matters of public trust and safety

Deepakshi Kasat

India stands at a pivotal juncture in its quest to harness artificial intelligence (AI) for biotechnology innovation. On one hand, initiatives like the BioE3 Policy and the IndiaAI Mission reflect a bold vision to position the country as a global leader in AI-driven biomanufacturing and ethical AI development. On the other, fragmented regulations and lagging safeguards threaten to undermine this progress. As India races to capitalise on AI's transformative potential, a critical question emerges: can it balance ambition with accountability?

India's biomanufacturing sector is abuzz with possibilities. For decades, the country has been the world's go-to supplier for generic medicines and vaccines, a reputation it has built on scale, cost, and reliability. But now, as AI sweeps through the global life sciences industry, there's a sense that something much bigger is in the works. Many modern biomanufacturing facilities already have robots running precision tasks, biosensors streaming real-time data, and AI models quietly optimising everything from fermentation to packaging.

DNA of biomanufacturing

Biocon, one of India's largest biotechnology firms, is integrating AI to improve drug screening and its biologics manufacturing processes. By leveraging AI-based predictive analytics, Biocon will enhance the efficiency of fermentation and quality control, reducing production costs while maintaining global standards. Similarly, Bengaluru-based Strand Life Sciences uses AI in genomics and personalised medicine, helping accelerate drug discovery and clinical diagnostics. Their platforms use machine learning to analyse complex biological data, making it easier to identify drug targets and predict treatment responses. These efforts illustrate how AI is already reshaping biomanufacturing and healthcare delivery in India.

It's not just about swapping out people for machines. AI is transforming the very DNA of biomanufacturing. Imagine a production line where sensors feed thousands of data points every second into an AI system that can spot the faintest hint of trouble, like a temperature drift, a pH blip or a subtle change in cell growth. Before a human operator even notices, the AI predicts a deviation, tweaks the process, and keeps the batch on track. Digital twins, which are virtual replicas of entire manufacturing plants allow engineers to run simulations, test changes, and foresee problems without ever touching a real fermenter.

The result? Fewer failed batches, less waste, and products that consistently meet the gold standard for quality. For a country like India, where every rupee and every dose counts, these gains can be transformative.

Interesting and complicated

The Government of India has clearly recognised this potential. The BioE3 Policy, rolled out in 2024, is a playbook for the future. The policy lays out plans for state-of-the-art biomanufacturing hubs, biofoundries, and "Bio-AI Hubs" that will bring together the best minds in science, engineering, and data. There's real money on the table too, with funding and grants designed to help startups and established players alike leap from the lab bench to the market shelf.

Equally important is the IndiaAI Mission, which is working alongside BioE3 to ensure India's AI revolution is both innovative and ethical. The Mission is as much about building technical capacity as about building trust. By supporting projects that focus on explainable and responsible AI – such as efforts to reduce algorithmic bias or frameworks for "machine unlearning" – the Mission is helping set the standards for how AI should be developed and deployed in sensitive sectors like health and biotechnology.

But here's where things get interesting and complicated. While India's ambitions are sky-high, its regulatory framework is still catching its breath. The rules that govern how new drugs, biologics, and manufacturing processes come to market were written for a different era. Today's AI-driven systems don't always fit neatly into those boxes. For example, when an AI model is used to control a bioreactor or predict the yield of a vaccine batch, how do we know it's reliable? Who checks that the data it was trained on is representative of India's diverse conditions, or that it won't make a catastrophic error if something unexpected happens? These aren't just technical questions. They are matters of public trust and safety.

Risk-based, context-aware

Globally, the rules are changing. The European Union's AI Act, effective since August 2024, classifies AI tools into four risk tiers. High-risk applications like genetic editing face strict audits while the U.S. FDA's 2025 guidance mandates a seven-step framework for AI credibility. These models emphasise two things India lacks: context-specific risk evaluation and adaptive regulation. For instance, the FDA's 'Predetermined Change Control Plans' allow iterative AI updates that are critical for evolving cancer therapies without compromising safety. India needs this kind of risk-based, context-aware oversight as it moves from pilot projects to full-scale, AI-powered manufacturing.

Picture an Indian biotech startup that develops an AI platform to optimise enzyme production for the specialty chemicals industry. This sector is already worth $32 billion (₹2.74 lakh crore) and growing fast. If this AI is trained only on data from large, urban manufacturing sites, it might fail to account for the quirks of smaller plants in semi-urban or rural areas, like differences in water quality, ambient temperature or even local power fluctuations.

Without clear standards for dataset diversity and model validation, the tool could recommend process tweaks that work beautifully in Bengaluru but flop in Baddi. The result: lost revenue, wasted resources, and a blow to India's reputation for quality. This is why the context of use and credibility assessment that are core pillars in the FDA's approach are so important. We need to be clear exactly what question the AI is answering, how it's being used, and how strict our oversight should be, depending on the risks involved.

Of course, biomanufacturing is only one piece of the puzzle. Imagine a future where India not only supplies 60% of the world's vaccines but also designs them using algorithms that predict viral mutations. A future where farmers in Bihar receive AI-generated advisories to combat pest outbreaks and patients in rural Tamil Nadu are diagnosed by tools trained on India's genetic diversity. This isn't science fiction – it's the promise of AI-driven biomanufacturing, a field where India is making bold strides. Yet beneath this optimism lies a critical question: can our policies keep up with science?

With great power comes...

The intersections are multiplying. In drug discovery, AI platforms can screen millions of compounds *in silico*, slashing the time and cost needed to find new treatments. Molecular design tools are helping researchers fine-tune drug candidates for maximum efficacy and minimal side effects. Clinical trials that were once notorious for delays and inefficiencies are being streamlined by AI systems that optimise patient recruitment and trial design, making studies faster and more representative. Even the supply chain is getting an upgrade: AI-powered predictive maintenance keeps manufacturing lines humming, while demand forecasting ensures that medicines reach the right place at the right time, reducing shortages and waste.

Another unique application of AI is Wipro's work in developing AI-powered solutions for pharmaceutical companies to streamline drug discovery. By combining machine learning algorithms with computational biology, Wipro has helped reduce the time required to identify viable drug candidates. Similarly, Tata Consultancy Services is leveraging AI in its 'Advanced Drug Development' platform, which uses machine learning to fine-tune clinical trials and predict treatment outcomes. These applications demonstrate how AI is not just confined to manufacturing but is transforming the entire healthcare value chain, from research to patient care. These innovations also indicate India's potential to lead the way in AI-powered healthcare solutions.

As AI begins to play a bigger role in inventing new molecules and processes, questions about inventorship, data ownership, and licensing are becoming more urgent. Without clear, harmonised policies, the risk of stifling innovation or ending up in costly legal battles persists

But with great power comes great responsibility and a host of new challenges. Data governance is a big one. AI models are only as good as the data they're trained on, and in a country as diverse as India, that's no small feat. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 is a start, but it doesn't address the specific needs of AI in biomanufacturing, like ensuring that datasets are clean, diverse, and free from hidden biases. Intellectual property is another thorny issue. As AI begins to play a bigger role in inventing new molecules and processes, questions about inventorship, data ownership, and licensing are becoming more urgent. Without clear, harmonised policies, the risk of stifling innovation or ending up in costly legal battles persists.

Create, not just copy

So, what's the way forward? First, India needs to move quickly towards a risk-based, adaptive regulatory framework. This means defining the context of use for every AI tool, setting clear standards for data quality and model validation, and ensuring ongoing oversight as systems evolve.

Second, India needs to invest in infrastructure and talent – and not just in the metropolitan cities but across the country.

Third, it needs to foster a culture of collaboration, bringing together regulators, industry, academia, and international partners to share best practices and solve problems together.

If the country gets this right, the rewards are enormous. India's legacy in generic drug manufacturing is secure but the future belongs to those who can harness the power of AI to create, not just copy. With the right policies, the right people, and the right priorities, there's no reason why the next great leap in biomanufacturing shouldn't come from India. The world is watching and the time to act is now.

(Deepakshi Kasat is a scientist with GlaxoSmithKline in California. deepakshikasat@gmail.com)

Sarcopenia contributes to frailty, slow recovery, and hospital readmissions in older adults. ALAN CALVERT/UNSPLASH

Common molecule offers clue to making old muscles young again

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

As we age, it gets harder to recover from a fall, injury or even a tough workout because the body's muscle-repair system starts to falter. Muscle stem cells (MuSCs), the in-house repair crew, stop dividing and rebuilding tissue, losing their ability to respond to damage.

A study in *Cell Stem Cell* on June 12 suggested this decline may be reversible. The key isn't some futuristic therapy but a molecule already used in hospitals today.

Researchers found that five daily injections of prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), a compound involved in inflammation and used clinically to induce labour, restored muscle stem cell function in aged mice. After treatment, older mice regained the ability to regenerate damaged muscle: their muscle fibres grew larger, muscle mass increased, and strength improved by about 20% compared to their untreated peers.

The findings are important because PGE2 is naturally produced in the body, particularly after injury. It signals MuSCs to start repairs in young muscle, but in older tissue this signal fades, leaving stem cells inactive even when needed. After PGE2 treatment, aged stem cells "woke up," resumed dividing, participated in tissue repair, and helped restore the animals' muscle strength. Remarkably, these effects lasted at least two weeks beyond the treatment window, suggesting more than just a temporary boost.

Even more strikingly, the outcome held true outside the body. When aged stem cells were treated with PGE2 for just 48 hours in the lab and transplanted into injured muscle, they formed new tissue at levels comparable to young stem cells. Imaging showed that these treated cells engrafted robustly, persisted for weeks, and even expanded in response to subsequent injury – evidence that PGE2 acted directly on the cells themselves, not just their environment.

Five daily injections of prostaglandin E2, a compound involved in inflammation and used clinically to induce labour, restored muscle stem cell function in aged mice

To understand how, the team examined molecular changes inside the cells. PGE2 reopened regions of the genome that had become inaccessible with age. It also dialled down a stress-related pathway called AP-1, which becomes overactive in aging MuSCs. The molecule reset the cells' internal programmes, allowing them to act more like their younger selves.

The study adds to an ongoing shift in how scientists think about ageing. For years, researchers believed age-related decline in muscle repair was driven mainly by the environment around stem cells, such as inflammation or scar tissue. But this work adds to evidence that stem cells themselves carry reversible, internal changes, opening the door to therapies that rejuvenate cells directly.

The relevance goes far beyond the lab. Sarcopenia affects millions and contributes to frailty, slow recovery, and hospital readmissions in older adults. There are no approved therapies that restore MuSC function. The new study suggests a brief intervention could one day support healing in such situations.

By showing that stem cell aging isn't irreversible, this study also opens a new frontier.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Govt. of Punjab has launched 12 landmark initiatives to kickstart an Industrial Revolution in Punjab

45-Day Deemed Approval System

Get all approvals for starting or expanding a business within 45 days. If not issued on time, deemed approval is auto-granted on 46th day.

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Investments Up to Rs. 125 Cr to Get In-Principle Approvals in 3 Days

Investments up to Rs. 125 Cr in plant and machinery will get In-Principle Approval in 3 working days under the Right to Business Act. In-Principle approval valid for 3.5 years

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All industrial plot owners in Punjab can soon convert their plots from leasehold to freehold - apply through an online and fully transparent process.

- Apply for a **Land Feasibility Report Online** on Fast-Track Punjab portal. Circle Revenue Officer will issue report online in 15 days.
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- Expanded **Land Use Conversion Policy for Industrial Plots** to soon cover 10 land use categories including hotels, hospitals, offices, commercial, IT etc.
- **Accelerated Focal Points Auctions** with 260 plots currently under auction. No more land constraint for new investments.
- **No More Delay in Incentives.** ₹250 Cr incentives being disbursed in 3 months of FY 2025-26 - the highest in Punjab's history.

For more details log on to: fasttrack.punjab.gov.in

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

1092/18/2025-26/219

5 kg of ganja seized from train

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) seized 5.05 kg of ganja onboard Tatanagar-Yeshwanthpur Express on Friday.

According to an official statement, the item was found in possession of Mahendra Das, 57, a bedroll staff on the train during a surprise check in the Birur-Kadur section by a special team as part of Operation NARCOS.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 16			
RISE	05:54	SET	18:47
RISE	23:02	SET	10:07
TUESDAY, JUN. 17			
RISE	05:54	SET	18:47
RISE	23:42	SET	11:01
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 18			
RISE	05:54	SET	18:47
RISE	00:00	SET	11:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Karnataka tops in wind power capacity addition in 2024-25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka increased its wind power capacity by 1,331.48 megawatts (MW), securing the State first place in the country for its wind power capacity addition in the financial year (FY) 2024 - 25. This was announced during the Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations themed "Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India", held in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The State's installed wind power capacity is now more than the combined capacity of countries like South Africa, Portugal, and New Zealand, and is comparable to that of Sweden and Australia, claimed the officials of the Energy Department.

Karnataka was followed by Tamil Nadu, which added 1,136.37 MW, and Gujarat, which added 954.76 MW during the FY.

"This is not just a number–it is a reflection of Karnataka's unwavering commitment to clean energy," said K.J. George, Energy Minister of Karnataka.

"Karnataka's total installed wind power capacity now stands at 7,351 MW and is a testament to its consistent leadership in renewable energy. This achievement is symbolic of our ability to execute large-scale projects and provide clean energy to industries, farmers, and households," the Minister added.

The State is preparing to implement 17 gigawatts (GW) of wind power projects, with over 5 GW planned under the Renewable Energy Cluster Programme. "Infrastructure is being strengthened through the establishment of more than 20 substations, 400 kV corridors, and a Renewable Energy Reserve Zone," Mr. George said.

Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, emphasised the importance of collaboration between implementing agencies and the local communities for the success of the projects.

"Essentially, we are going to areas where residents have been living for hundreds of years and putting up our solar or wind generation devices there. That is why we need to have a lot of local connections with society to deal with local opposition regarding land or the right of way. Wherever we have seen good advancements, it is because agencies have taken up collaborative exercises with society," Mr. Gupta said.

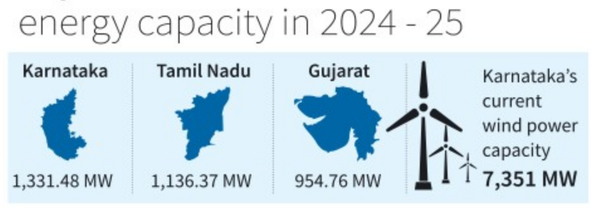
As the fourth largest wind power generator in the world, India currently has an installed wind capacity of 51.5 GW. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) plans to increase this to 100 GW in the next few years.

"The national goal is to reach 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, including 100 GW from wind power, of which 30 GW will come from offshore sources. Additionally, India exported 3.5 to 4 GW worth of wind turbines and modules in the current financial year," noted Prahlad Joshi, Union Minister of MNRE.

As the fourth largest wind power generator in the world, India currently has an installed wind capacity of 51.5 GW. FILE PHOTO

The State is preparing to implement 17 GW of wind power projects, with over 5 GW planned under the Renewable Energy Cluster Programme

Highest addition of installed wind energy capacity in 2024 - 25



Challenges

Speaking about the challenges that lie ahead, Mr. Joshi said, "We must ensure 24x7 power supply and grid stability through integration of wind, solar, and pumped storage systems. Also, prioritise competitive electricity tariffs and focus on domestic manufacturing and exports to build India's green energy economy."

'Ramping Up Local Manufacturing for Wind Turbines in India', a report which outlines a roadmap for boosting domestic wind turbine manufacturing capabilities was also released by Mr. Joshi during the event. The report notes that India must maintain an annual installation rate of 10 GW over the next five years to achieve its goal of 100 GW installed wind capacity by 2030.

"Several factors supporting this growth trajectory are strong performance in utility-scale auctions, rising demand from commercial and industrial (C&I) consumers, and clear policy momentum toward hybrid and dispatchable renewable power solutions," the report said.

Fire at private hostel, students rescued

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Around 100 nursing students from a private college were safely evacuated from a hostel in Derelakatte here on Sunday, following a fire on the ground floor of the four-storey building.

According to Fire and Emergency Services, a distress call was received at the Pandeshwar Fire Station at 7.45 p.m. on Sunday, and fire tenders rushed to the spot.

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In Loving Memory
Mr. M. GANESH
Ex. CEO - Bonfiglioli Transmissions Pvt. Ltd.

13 July 1942 - 14 June 2025

With deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of
Mr. M. Ganesh on 14th June 2025.

As the founding CEO of Bonfiglioli India, he laid the foundation of our journey in the country. A visionary leader and mentor, he inspired a culture of integrity, entrepreneurship, and passion.
His legacy will continue to guide us.

Fondly remembered by all of us at

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Session 2: MSMEs : Powering Make in India

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of children out-of-school across the globe

272 In million. The global out-of-school population is now estimated to be 272 million, over 21 million more than the last estimate, according to UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Team (GEM). The report also noted the impact of conflicts on out-of-school populations. PTI

Number of dead bodies received by Ukraine from Russia

1,200 Ukraine on Sunday said it had received another transfer of 1,200 bodies from Russia as part of an exchange agreement struck in Istanbul earlier this month. "In total, 4,812 bodies have been returned this week," Ukraine's Defence Minister said. AFP

Amount approved for Keshkal bypass road in Chhattisgarh

307 In ₹ crore. The Union government has approved a four-lane bypass road to be built at the cost of ₹307.96 crore in Keshkal of Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district to strengthen road connectivity, a State government official said on Sunday. PTI

Number of citizens from Nepal in Israel and Iran

5,512 Nepal's Foreign Ministry said there are 5,500 Nepalese nationals in Israel and 12 in Iran, and all of them are safe. Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba instructed Nepal's envoys in Tel Aviv and Doha to keep in high priority the security of the nation's citizens. PTI

Number of complaints resolved by SEBI via SCORES portal in May

4,493 The SEBI Complaint Redressal System (SCORES) is a platform which facilitates investors in lodging and tracking complaints against listed companies and registered intermediaries. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What are flue gas desulphurisation units?

What are the different types of FGD systems commonly used in coal-fired thermal power plants? Why are emissions of sulphur dioxide a threat to the planet? Why is the government advocating for a rollback of FGDs in coal-fired power plants? What are the alternatives?

EXPLAINER

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

On June 4, *The Hindu* reported that a committee of experts, chaired by Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) Ajay Sood, has recommended that India do away with a decade-long policy of mandating Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units in all coal-fired thermal power plants (TPPs).

What is a FGD unit?

Flue gas is emitted as a byproduct of combustion of fossil fuels. It mainly contains pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, etc. FGD units specifically target the SO2 emissions in flue gas. SO2 is an acidic gas, and is usually treated with a basic compound in the FGD unit to neutralise the pollutant. There are three common types of FGD systems around the world – dry sorbent injection, wet limestone treatment, and using sea water to remove SO2. The dry sorbent injection method involves adding a powdered sorbent like limestone to the flue gas, where it reacts with SO2. The resultant compound can be removed by using an electrostatic precipitator, or a fabric filter. The wet limestone treatment method also uses limestone to remove SO2, but instead of using it in a powdered form, it uses a limestone slurry. Passing SO2 through this slurry results in the formation of gypsum, which is a stable compound and has wide applications in industries like construction. This is the commonly used technology, and has very high efficiency.

Sea water treatment is used in plants located near coastal areas. Sea water first absorbs SO2 from flue gas, and then the water is treated to make it suitable to be discharged back into the sea.

Why are SO2 emissions bad?

SO2 is one of the major greenhouse gases that cause global warming, and can cause respiratory problems in humans. Sulphur dioxide can also lead to the formation of other oxides of sulphur in the atmosphere, which can in turn react with other compounds to form particulate matter. "It has been established in several modelling studies that 15% of India's ambient PM2.5 is attributable to coal. A significant share of this (80%) is in turn attributable to secondary particulate matter formed from the SO2 that is released when coal is burned. FGDs are absolutely necessary to mitigate this route to PM2.5 formation," Karthik Ganesan, Fellow and Director - Strategic Partnerships, Council on Energy, Environment and Water told *The Hindu*.

Costly cleanup: Smoke comes out from the Tuticorin Thermal Power station in Thoothukudi. FILE PHOTO

What's status of FGD units in India?

In 2015, the Union Environment Ministry issued a policy that mandated all 537 coal-fired TPPs in India to install FGD units to reduce SO2 emissions. The first deadline for this was 2018, but merely a handful of the plants met the deadline. As of April 2025, compliance had been pushed to 2027, 2028, and 2029, respectively, depending on the category of the thermal power plant. It takes around two years to install an FGD unit.

According to a government press release dated August 1, 2024, FGD units have been installed in only 39 out of 537 coal-fired TPPs in India. On December 30, 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification, pushing back the deadline for complying with SO2 emission norms by three years without specifying any reasons. In April 2025, a study commissioned by the PSA's office concluded that the Environment Ministry should roll back its 2015 policy mandating all of India's TPPs to install FGD units.

Why are FGD units contentious?

Installing FGD units is a costly affair. According to the Central Electricity Authority, FGD costs approximately ₹1.2 crore per MW to install. As of April 2025, India's installed coal capacity stood at 2,19,338 MW, which is more than 46% of the country's total electricity installed capacity. This is expected to rise in the coming years. In his statement at a June 10 press conference, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "About 97,000 MW of power will be added, and implementing FGD means an additional expense of ₹97,000 crore. We have to consider this carefully. Neither should health be harmed, nor people face increased tariffs, nor warming increase."

However, some researchers like Shruti Sharma, Lead, Affordable Energy, at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Bengaluru, believe that even though "skipping FGD units may appear to offer short-term savings, it risks undermining India's clean air targets and public health commitments". "FGDs can add up to ₹0.72 per kWh to electricity tariffs – a cost that reflects the price of cleaner air. Importantly, over 80% of this increase in tariffs is due to the FGD technology's fixed costs, and variable cost increase is in all cases less than ₹0.1 per kWh. This limits the risk of volatile or unexpected costs and makes it easier for utilities and regulators to plan and manage the impact," she said. It's also tricky to gauge how FGDs make an impact on air quality, since it depends on the proximity of towns to power plants. "The contribution to PM2.5 in Delhi, for example, is not that significant from coal-based power plants but given the levels that Delhi experiences, many sources have to be addressed, and stationary sources are easier to target," Dr. Ganesan said.

Is there an alternative to FGD?

According to experts, no. "There is no alternative to FGDs itself to remove SO2 that is released from the burning of coal....There is an urgent need to get these [TPPs] compliant without delaying any further," Dr. Ganesan said.

THE GIST

- Flue gas is emitted as a byproduct of combustion of fossil fuels. It mainly contains pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, etc.
- SO2 is one of the major greenhouse gases that cause global warming, and can cause respiratory problems in humans.
- Installing FGD units is a costly affair. According to the Central Electricity Authority, FGD costs approximately ₹1.2 crore per MW to install.

Why have special economic zones rules been relaxed?

Have these relaxed rules encouraged investment in the domestic manufacture of semiconductors? How important are semiconductors to the digital ecosystem?

T.C.A Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The Government of India has been taking various steps to boost the production of semiconductors and electronics in India, in a bid to reduce our dependence on imports. Some previous measures include the Semicon India programme launched in 2022 with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore. Now, the government has gone a step further and has relaxed key rules related to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further encourage the domestic manufacture of semiconductors and electronics.

Why are semiconductors important?

Semiconductors lie at the heart of an increasingly electronic society, with AI and machine learning only the latest in a long trend of increased digitisation and automation. Semiconductors are the tiny chips processing vast amounts of information that make all of these processes possible, in one's phone, computer, tablet, smart TV, smart speaker, car, and every other electronic gadget. According to the Semiconductor Industry Association, China accounted for about 35% of all semiconductors manufactured in the world in 2021. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the world, including India, realised that the concentration of supply chains in one country posed huge risks for any country dependent on those supplies. Therefore, they started trying to boost the domestic manufacture of such key components.

What are the latest steps by the Indian government?

On June 9, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it had notified several modifications to the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Rules, 2006, a week earlier, to enhance the domestic manufacture of semiconductors.

One of these tweaks was to Rule 5, which dealt with the size of the SEZ. Earlier, an SEZ set up exclusively for the manufacture of semiconductors or electronic components needed a minimum contiguous land area of 50 hectares. This has now been significantly reduced to 10 hectares. This reduced size will allow companies to make smaller investments but still avail of SEZ benefits such as tax exemptions, duty-free imports, and infrastructure support.

Another amendment to Rule 7 of the SEZ Rules now allows the Board of Approval for SEZs to relax the condition that had required SEZ land to be "encumbrance-free". Land is deemed to be encumbrance-free if it does not have any legal claims, liens, or charges against it, and when clear title of ownership and transfer can be established. With India's complicated and often-archaic land record mechanisms, and lengthy legal processes, such a requirement would have stymied a lot of SEZs. Relaxing this rule will allow SEZs to come up faster.

A third amendment was to Rule 18, allowing SEZ units in semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing to supply domestically, after paying the applicable duties. Conventionally, SEZs are exclusively export-oriented. Allowing domestic sales not only shields the SEZs from the ongoing global trade uncertainty, but also ensures a steady supply to the domestic market itself.

What has been the impact?

Given the changes are so recent, one can't immediately establish long-term impacts. However, following the tweaks, two new SEZs have already been approved with a total investment of ₹13,100 crore. Micron Semiconductor Technology India will establish an SEZ facility in Sanand, Gujarat for the manufacture of semiconductors with an estimated investment of ₹13,000 crore, while Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster, a part of the Aequs Group, will establish an SEZ facility for the manufacture of electronic components in Dharwad, Karnataka, at a cost of ₹100 crore.

Micron's plant is to be 37.64 hectares in area and the Aequs plant is expected to be 11.55 hectares.

THE GIST

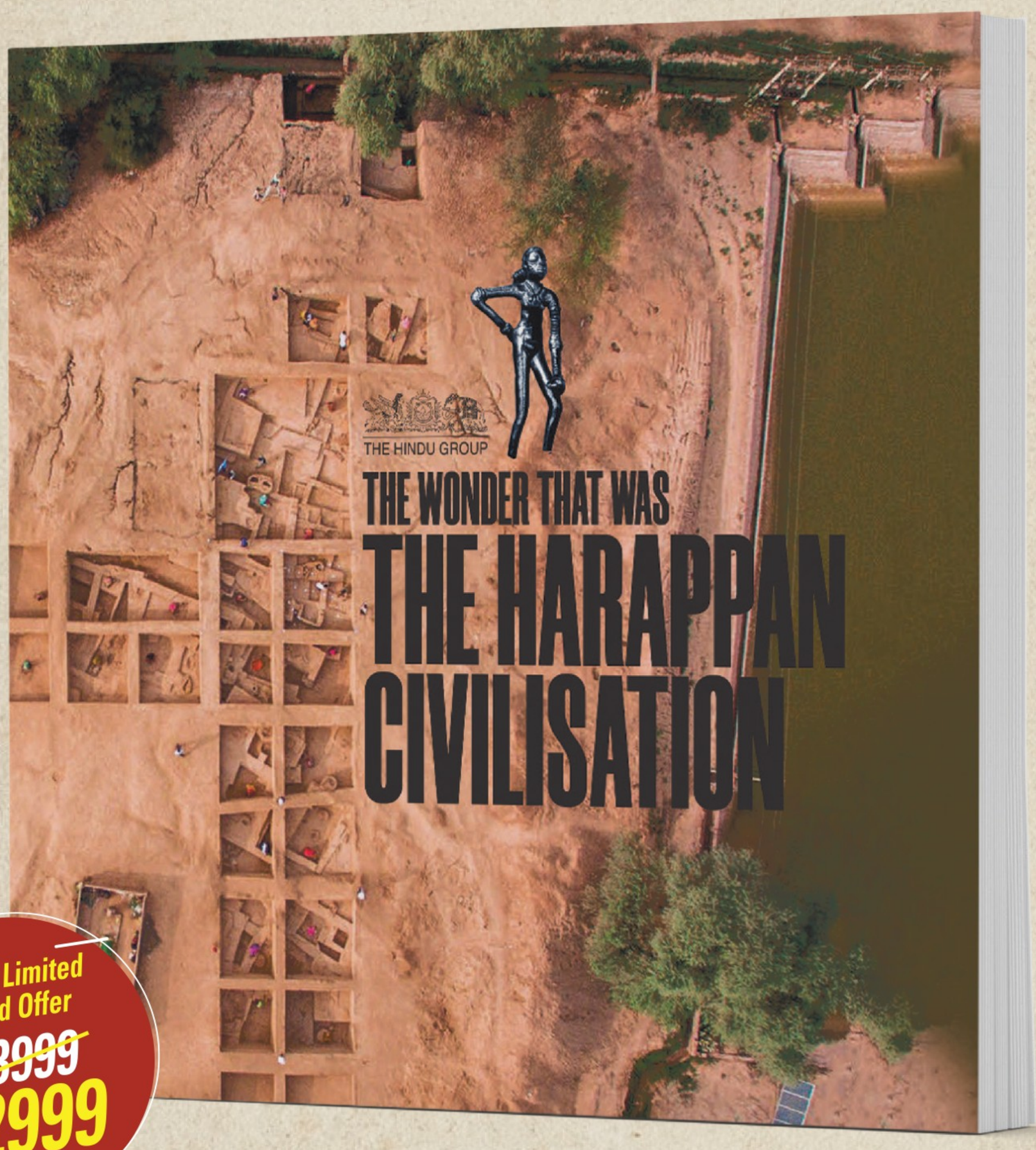
- Semiconductors lie at the heart of an increasingly electronic society, with AI and machine learning only the latest in a long trend of increased digitisation and mechanisation.
- On June 9, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it had notified several modifications to the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Rules, 2006.
- Following the tweaks, two new SEZs have already been approved with a total investment of ₹13,100 crore.

NEW ARRIVAL

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu marks the centenary of the announcement of the discovery of the Indus Civilisation with a new edition of the book 'The Wonder that was the Harappan Civilisation'. The book has a bonanza of photographs and 48 extra pages, featuring interviews with Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Y S Rawat, scholars R S Bisht and Asko Parpola. There are new stories on the excavations at Karanpura and Padka Bet, both Harappan sites in India. A treasure to own.



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EDUCATIONPLUS

Let learners learn

Apart from focusing on specific skills, English classes need to break away from the teacher-centric models and foster independent learning among students

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

K. Elango

Language teaching must be distinct from the teaching of subjects like Maths, Physics, or Economics. Yet, current practices rarely reflect any such distinction, especially at school level. Language syllabuses outline ambitious objectives and learning outcomes such as to enable learners to become fluent and flawless users and to empower them to be 'autonomous' by mastering the language. They also aim to equip them to employ the language effectively and naturally in both formal and informal contexts.

However, at the initial stages (Levels 1 and 2), the basic objective is imparting foundational skills and, by level 3, learners are expected to have acquired the core linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (LSRW).

Reality today

However, the reality of today's teaching-learning ecosystem tells us a different story, raising certain poignant questions: If learners have acquired the basic skills, why do teachers continue to re-teach them at higher levels? Why aren't they letting learners expand on their own to refine the acquired skills? Isn't the classroom engagement actually stifling their cognitive development by overemphasising teacher-led instructions? Why do teachers, even at the advanced stages, read texts aloud and explicate them, instead of guiding learners to explore on their own? Shouldn't class time be devoted to acquainting learners with diverse reading texts and strategies to optimise their efforts?

To materialise the stated objectives of teaching-learning of English, overhauling of the curriculum is a necessity. The first two of LSRW are innate human abilities, while the other two are acquired skills with reading typically preceding writing. As literacy fundamentally begins with reading, it demands prioritised attention. Instead of labelling classes generically as 'English', timetables should specify the skills being dealt with. Signalling the shift, on each day, a period should be earmarked for a particular skill. Of the five periods in a week, two should be dedicated for Reading, as it is the 'mother of all skills', and one each can be dedicated to Listening, Speaking and Writing.

Moreover, reading classes must break free from the dated teacher-centric models. Learners should actively engage in varied activities to turn the grandiose plan of learner-centric and learner-driven approaches a reality. This approach will foster learner 'independence' by shifting them away from teacher dependence. The role of a teacher should be restricted to organising 'tasks' – designing and organising activities in diverse formats such as individual, in pairs, triads, and small groups – ensuring inclusive participation of all.

Wide range

J.K. Rowling once remarked, "If you are not interested in reading, you have not found the right book". In a class of 30 or 40 students, no single text can appeal to all; hence, various kinds must be utilised. This requires an alternative syllabus construction, i.e., inclusion of 'seen' and 'unseen' texts. The 'seen' could be prescribed, but the 'unseen' should be identified by teachers and anchored on students' interests and needs, a practice adopted in progressive institutions. Texts can span both fiction and non-fiction across multiple genres. Fiction, for instance, holds romance, mystery, horror, fantasy, sci-fi, and thrillers; similarly, non-fiction ranges from autobiographies, biographies, self-help, and travelogues, spiritual to scientific writings. Familiarity with this wide variety can facilitate learners to choose whatever interests them.

Adults in their 40s and 50s confess that they may have read about 500 books, mostly during their school and college days. This establishes the criticality of student days, for what they were to become later in their lives. Reading, after all, is not just decoding but also involves comprehension, reflection and imagination, which enables them to be thinkers. So, to maximise their efforts, besides the text types, they must be introduced to strategies such as skimming, scanning, previewing, predicting, questioning, and inferencing. Mastery of these will accelerate the reading of more books with less time. For slogans such as 'job-ready', 'future-ready', or prepare for 'non-existent jobs', reading skills are the true foundation. 'Read to lead, and lead to read' is the maxim.

As language is for communicative purposes, 'noisy classes' are the norm. So, the cliched ideal of 'pin-drop silence' must be militated against. The censure of inability to acquire English is not owing to learners' incapacity, but systemic shortcomings. The question remains: Are we truly ready to handle English courses differently? Subjects can be learnt through textbooks, but language demands efforts beyond textbooks, beyond teacher and classroom. The more one reads, the better they become.

The writer is a retired Professor of English and Chief Executive Chair of the English Language Teachers' Association of India

SCHOLARSHIPS

Campus France Amba Dalmia Scholarship
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Eligibility: Open to female Indian citizens who are at least 18 years and have completed Class 12 or graduation and have applied for or secured admission in a French institution. Consistent and exemplary academic record is required and French language proficiency is optional.
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Deadline: June 20
www.b4s.in/edge/ADSW1

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www.b4s.in/edge/FSAU1

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Application: Online
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www.b4s.in/edge/KJSP3

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

Admissions

The **Indian School of Hospitality (ISH)** invites applications for BBA/ BBA (Hons) in Hospitality Management.
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Deadline: July 20
www.ish.edu.in/

The **Institute of Bakery and Culinary Arts (IBCA)** has opened admissions for Culinary Arts and Bakery and Pastry Arts programmes: diploma and certificate.
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https://www.chefibpa.com/

The **University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, the U.K.,** invites applications its M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence and Applications course starting this September. Scholarships are available
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https://tinyurl.com/2s2har8y

The **University of Sheffield, the U.K.,** invites applications for its MSc Environmental Change and International Development course starting this September. Scholarships are available.
Eligibility: Holders of a three- or four-year Bachelor's degree with 60% from a recognised university an Arts and Humanities or Social Science subject, Medicine or Public Health and overall IELTS score 6.5 with 6 in each component.
Deadline: July 8
https://tinyurl.com/7a3rm2ft

Scholarships

Yes Germany has announced scholarships for Indian students aiming to pursue Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Germany. This includes Heidelberg University's Hans-Peter Wild Talent Scholarship; Humboldt University of Berlin's Humboldt Research Track Scholarship; RWTH Aachen University Scholarships, Technical University of Munich (TUM) Scholarship, Ludwig-Maximilians-UniversitätMünchen (LMU Munich) Scholarships, and Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Merit Scholarships. Students can availa personalised guidance and support from Yes Germany. For details, visit yesgermany.com

Lorien Finance is offering four scholarships worth ₹500,000 each as part of of Scholarship 2025 campaign to students across India.
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PULSE-CHECK

Prevailing symptoms: Medical officials set up beds for COVID-19 patients at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, in New Delhi, on June 5. PTI

How a lung gene is linked to post-COVID symptoms as per genetics study

Long COVID, or technically post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection, refers to symptoms that continue for weeks or months after the initial illness clears. A new study has tried to find out why some people develop long COVID while others recover quickly

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

More than four years since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the disease remains a global health concern – not because of new surges but because of what persists. Long COVID, or technically post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC), refers to symptoms that continue for weeks or months after the initial illness clears. These include fatigue, breathing problems, and cognitive issues. The World Health Organization defines long COVID as symptoms that begin within three months of infection and last at least two months without another explanation.

Why some people develop long COVID while others recover quickly remains unclear. A recent genome-wide association study published in *Nature Genetics* analysed genetic data from six major global ancestries to investigate whether inherited differences play a role.

A diverse study

The study, conducted under the COVID-19 Host Genetics Initiative at the Germans Trias i Pujol research institute in Spain, used a Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) to identify genetic risk factors for long COVID. GWAS scans the genome for small 'spelling mistakes'– also known as single-nucleotide polymorphisms – in the DNA sequence that appear more often in people with a condition than in those without. This method has helped uncover links to many complex and chronic disorders.

The analysis used data from 33 groups across 19 countries, making it one of the largest efforts to date in this area. The researchers first analysed data from 6,450 long COVID cases and over one million population controls. In this discovery phase, they identified a genetic signal near the FOXP4 gene. This signal was then tested in a separate replication cohort of more than 9,500 cases and nearly 8,00,000 controls, and the association was confirmed.

The researchers applied two definitions of long COVID: a strict one requiring test-confirmed infection and ongoing symptoms, and a broader one that included self-reported or clinical diagnoses. Controls were also defined strictly (infected but recovered) or broadly (general population without long COVID). This helped the team test whether its results held up across different clinical definitions.

Gene linked to long COVID risk

The analysis found a strong association between long COVID and a region on chromosome 6, near the FOXP4 gene. A specific variant in the region, called rs9367106, increased the risk of developing long COVID. People with the "C" version of this variant were about 63% more likely to have long COVID symptoms than those without it.

Notably, FOXP4 increased long COVID risk even in people who weren't hospitalised, suggesting its effect is not tied solely to the severity of the initial infection. The variant's frequency also varied across populations. It appeared in about 1.6% of non-Finnish Europeans but up to 36% of East Asians. Because it was more common in some groups, its effects were easier to detect, even in smaller samples.

This highlights why genetic studies that include diverse populations are more reliable and globally relevant.

From lungs to immunity

To understand the connection between FOXP4 and long COVID, the researchers examined how active this gene was in different tissues and cell types and how its activity related to the condition.

The authors noted that the variant lies in a stretch of DNA that is especially "active" in lung tissue, suggesting it may affect how lungs function. Using GTEx, a large gene activity database, they found that a nearby variant (rs12660421), often inherited with rs9367106, was linked to higher levels of FOXP4 expression in the lung. This made it more likely that the gene influences how the lungs respond to infection and injury.

Going further, the researchers checked which lung cells produced FOXP4 most strongly. They found high activity in type 2 alveolar cells, key players in keeping air sacs open, clearing fluids, and repairing tissue damage. These cells also help coordinate the immune response to respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2. The same genetic region has also been associated with lung cancer in earlier research, suggesting that FOXP4 may influence multiple lung-related conditions via shared biological pathways.

To test whether FOXP4 activity – and not just the genetic variant – might be linked to long COVID, researchers analysed blood samples from people who had recovered from the initial phase of infection. They found that individuals with moderately higher levels of FOXP4 had more than twice the odds of developing long COVID. This association persisted even outside the acute illness phase, suggesting a longer-term role for the gene.

Finally, a technique called co-localisation analysis showed a 91% probability that the same genetic signal affects both FOXP4 activity and long COVID risk, reinforcing the gene's biological importance.

India's genomic gaps

The study has important implications for India, given its large population, genetic diversity, and significant COVID-19 burden. Multiple waves of infection and unequal access to care mean many Indians may continue to face lasting symptoms, often undiagnosed or untreated due to limited awareness and clinical follow-up.

Indian studies suggest a wide range in long COVID prevalence: from 45% to nearly 80% depending on design, follow-up, and illness severity. One multicentre study across Hyderabad, Vellore, Mumbai, and Thiruvalla found that 16.5% of hospitalised patients self-reported symptoms like fatigue and breathlessness even a year after discharge.

Although the GWAS included participants from six ancestry groups, the authors said most datasets were of European origin. South Asian representation was limited or unclear. This is a broader issue across GWAS in general, many of which have focused on European populations. Thus, it remains uncertain how frequently the FOXP4 variant occurs in the Indian population or whether its effects are similar in local contexts, particularly given region-specific factors such as air pollution, metabolic risk, and healthcare variability.

India's growing genomic infrastructure is beginning to close foundational data gaps. The GenomeIndia Project has released genomic data on 10,000 individuals from diverse Indian populations. While the project is not focused on disease mapping, it provides a foundational catalogue of genetic variation across populations. This reference can support future studies, such as an India-specific GWAS on long COVID, thus building confidence in translating findings into clinical or diagnostic settings in local contexts.

Some limitations

This large-scale international study identifies FOXP4 as a genetic factor linked to long COVID, offering a new clue as to why some individuals experience prolonged symptoms after a SARS-CoV-2 infection.

However, the authors also note several limitations.

Most data were collected before widespread vaccination and the emergence of newer variants like Omicron, making it unclear if the findings apply to all populations today. They also caution that evolving definitions of long COVID may have led to misclassification in some cohorts.

Additionally, the overall genetic contribution to long COVID appears modest, suggesting that other factors, including immunity and pre-existing conditions, also play key roles.

As India continues to address the long-term effects of the pandemic, studies like this highlight the importance of including diverse populations in genetic research.

Such efforts can improve public health responses and help tailor care for those living with long COVID.

Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi.

A black box. GETTY IMAGES

EXPLAINER

How do black boxes work?

PTI

The story so far:

As thousands of commercial flights take to the skies daily, sturdy boxes painted in bright orange are tucked away in aircraft fuselage. These boxes, better known as black boxes, record data during flights without interruption and hold crucial information in case of plane crashes.

What are black boxes?

Unlike its name, black boxes are painted bright orange to ensure high visibility. In modern aircraft, black boxes comprise of both a Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and a Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR). In some aircraft, these two recorders are integrated. In April, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) set up a flight recorders laboratory at its premises in New Delhi for carrying out more effective probes into accidents. Under the Civil Aviation Ministry, the AAIB carries out detailed investigations into accidents and also suggests measures to improve safety. The crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane from Ahmedabad to London soon after take-off is being probed by the AAIB.

DFDRs are coated with bright orange colour, treated with reflex material for high visibility and securely connected with automatically activated signalisation for localisation underwater, according to the agency. The development of flight data recorders evolved over a period of time. It started with the use of metal foils for recording data, and later, were replaced with magnetic tapes. At present, solid-state chips are used in flight data recorders.

What is history of flight recorders?

1950: The first generation of Flight Data Recorders (FDRs) emerged with metal foil as the recording medium.

1953: General Mills sold the first FDR to Lockheed Aircraft Company, enclosed in a yellow-painted spherical shell.

1954: Australia's David Ronald de Mey Warren invented the world's first FDR while probing an air crash. In 1953, Mr. Warren, a jet fuel expert, was working as part of a special team analysing mysterious mid-air explosions experienced by the world's first commercial jet aircraft, the de Havilland Comet. Subsequently, he invented the FDR so that the recordings would be helpful in the analysis of aircraft accidents.

1960: FDRs and CVRs are made mandatory for aircraft.

1965: FDRs were required to be painted bright orange or yellow to locate them easily at crash sites.

1990: Solid-state memory devices replaced magnetic tapes in FDRs. According to the International Civil Aviation Organization, audio recordings from cockpit voice recorders supplement flight data by providing details on flight crew responses. The recordings also aid in assessments of how radio communications or other outside distractions may have been a factor in an accident. This data has assisted understanding of how aircraft perform, both before and during an accident, and have provided useful information for airline flight data analysis programmes.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of 'Bloomsday', a quiz on James Joyce's acclaimed novel *Ulysses*

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Apart from the book being set on June 16, how is the date important in Joyce's life?

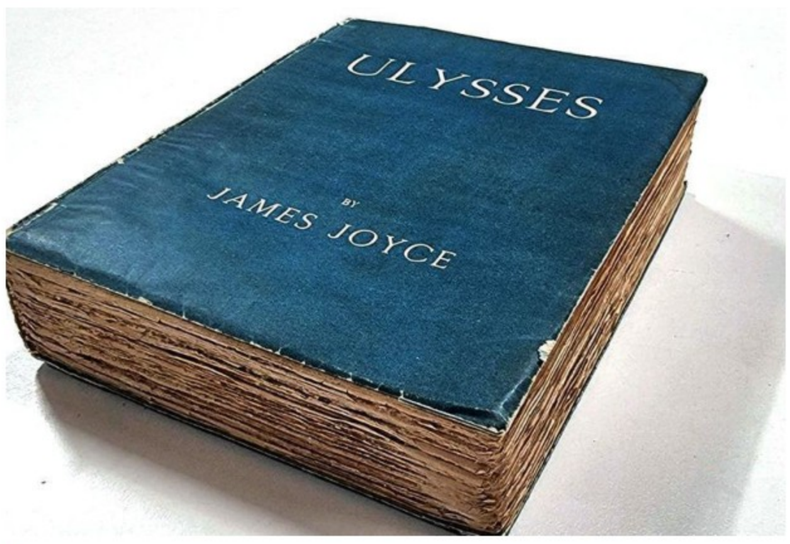
QUESTION 2
Made of 18 episodes, the book is divided into three parts. If Part II is Odyssey, what are Part I and III?

QUESTION 3
What was the working title of *Ulysses*? The book originally began as a novel focused on which character already created by Joyce?

QUESTION 4
Name episode 15 which Joyce scholars say is roughly the length of the first eight episodes of the novel combined.

QUESTION 5
What does Bloom eat for breakfast that has become very famous now?

QUESTION 6
Serving as a motif, which song features in both Bloom's and Molly's memories?



Visual question:
This is a first edition of the book. Which Paris-based publisher printed the book because it was banned in the U.K. and the U.S.?

Questions and Answers to the June 13 edition of the daily quiz: 1. Yeats was from this country. **Ans: Ireland**
2. The year in which Yeats received the Nobel Prize in Literature. **Ans: 1923**
3. This poet described Yeats as one of the "great artificers of God who uttered great truths to a little clan". **Ans: William Blake**
4. The influence of this writer is evident in Yeats' works. **Ans: Oscar Wilde**
5. Yeats expressed his admiration for this Italian politician. **Ans: Mussolini**
Visual: Identify this American poet. **Ans: Ezra Pound**
Early Birds: Tom Alan Faith| K.N. Viswanathan| Piyali Tuli| Rajib Ganguly| Dashleen Kaur

Word of the day

Puerile:
of or characteristic of a child; displaying or suggesting a lack of maturity

Synonyms: adolescent, juvenile

Usage: *I do not like his puerile jokes.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/puerilepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpjʊəˌɹaɪl/

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- B.Sc. in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics*
- B.Sc (Hons.) in Healthcare and Hospital Management*

Department of Forensic Sciences
- B.Sc. (Hons.) in Forensic Science*
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Forensic Science with specialization in Questioned in Documents and Fingerprints*
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Biology and Serology*
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives*
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Forensic Science with specialization in Cyber and Multimedia Forensics*
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Physics and Ballistics*
- Integrated B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Forensic Science

School of Agriculture
- B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture

School of Law
- Bachelor of Law (LLB) (Hons) approved by Bar Council of India
- Integrated BA + LLB (Hons) (approved by Bar Council of India)
- Integrated BBA + LLB (Hons) (approved by Bar Council of India)

School of Allied Health Sciences
- B.Sc Yoga Therapy
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy
- B.Sc Medical Lab Technology
- B.Sc in Operation Theatre Technology (New)
- Bachelor of Optometry
- B.Sc Cardiovascular Technology
- B.Sc in Medical Radiology & Imaging Technology (BMRIT)

School of Medical and Allied Sciences
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India) (NBA Accredited)

School of Nursing
- B.Sc. in Nursing (approved by Indian Nursing Council)

School of Media & Communication Studies
- BA (Hons.) in Digital Media and Communication (in association with India Today Media Institute)
- BA Journalism and Mass Communication*
- BA Journalism and Media
- BA Film Production and Theatre*
- BA Strategic Communication*
- B.Sc. Cinema in association with GKFTII

School of Hospitality
- Bachelor of Hotel Management
- B.Sc. Hotel Management*

School of Design
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion Design) (In Association with GKFTII)
- Bachelor of Interior & Spatial Design
- Bachelor of Design in Advertising, Graphics & Web Design
- Bachelor of Design (Communication Design)
- Bachelor of Design (Product Design)
- B.Sc. Fashion Design (In Association with GKFTII)

School of Education
- B.Ed. (approved by National Council for Teacher Education)

School of Vocational Education
- Bachelor of Vocation in Telecom
- Bachelor of Vocation in Electronic Manufacturing
- Bachelor of Vocation in Agriculture Processing
- Bachelor of Vocation in Graphic Design & Multimedia Technologies
- Bachelor of Vocation in Retail Management
- Bachelor of Vocation in Building and Construction Technology
- Bachelor of Vocation in Food Processing
- Bachelor of Vocation in Hospitality and Tourism
- Bachelor of Vocation in Automobile Manufacturing
- Bachelor of Vocation in Logistics Management
- Bachelor of Vocation in Banking and Financial Services and Insurance
- Bachelor of Vocation in Medical Lab Technology
- Bachelor of Vocation in Health Care Management
- Bachelor of Vocation (Multimedia and Visual Communication) in association with Ecole Intuit Lab
- Bachelor of Vocation (Multimedia and Digital Product Design) in association with Ecole Intuit Lab
- Bachelor of Vocation (Multimedia and Game Art and Design) in association with Ecole Intuit Lab

*For selected 3 Year Undergraduate programs, you have the option to continue for 4th year to obtain an Honours with Research Degree.

PG Programs

School of Computer Science & Engineering
- M.Tech in Data Science
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering - Cyber Security (For Working Professionals Only)
- M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering - Data Science (For Working Professionals Only)
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning - (For Working Professionals Only)

School of Computer Applications & Technology
- M.Sc. in Computer Science
- MSc. in Data Science
- MCA
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Web Designing & Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Cloud Computing)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Computer Network & Cyber Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Data Analytics)

School of Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering:
- M.Tech in Geotechnical Engineering
- M.Tech in Structural Engineering
- M.Tech in Transportation Engineering
- M.Tech in Structural Engineering (For Working Professionals Only)
- M.Tech in Transportation Engineering (For Working Professionals Only)

Department of Electrical, Electronics & Communication Engineering
- M.Tech in Power System Engineering
- M.Tech in Communication Engineering (Satellite Communication)
- M.Tech Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology)
- M.Tech Electronics and Communication (Advanced Communication Technology)
- M.Tech in Power System Engineering (For Working Professionals Only)

Department of Mechanical Engineering:
- M.Tech in Industrial & Production Engineering
- M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering (CAD/CAM & Robotics)

School of Business
Department of Management
- MBA Dual Specialization (NBA accredited)
- MBA (Digital Marketing)
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Advanced Sustainability Practices and Innovations
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Practices
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Strategic Entrepreneurship
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Advanced Entrepreneurship and Venture Development

School of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management
- MBA (Aviation Management)
- MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)
- MBA Tourism & Travel Management

School of Liberal Education
- MA in Psychology
- MA in Economics
- MA in Political Science
- MA in Sociology
- MA in Social Work
- MA in Politics and International relations
- M.Sc. in Cognitive Sciences, Learning & Technology
- MA in Public Policy
- PG Diploma in Counselling Psychology

School of Languages
- MA in Linguistics
- MA in French
- MA in English

School of Finance & Commerce
- M.Com
- Master of Finance and Control
- MBA Financial Management

School of Basic Sciences
- M.Sc. in Physics
- M.Sc. in Chemistry
- M.Sc. in Mathematics
- M.Sc. in Sustainability

School of Biosciences And Technology
Department of Life Sciences
- M.Sc. in Biotechnology
- M.Sc in Biological Science
- M.Sc in Microbiology
- M.Sc in Biochemistry
- M.Sc in Biomedical Science
- M.Sc in Zoology

Department of Food Technology
- M.Sc in Food Safety and Quality Assurance

Department of Biomedical Sciences
- M.Sc in Healthcare and Clinical Research
- M.Sc. in Medical Biotechnology
- M.Sc in Food Science and Dietetics
- M.Sc. in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics
- M.Sc in Industrial Biotechnology
- M.Sc Neuroscience with specialization in Cognitive Computing
- M.Sc Nanoscience and Technology

Department of Forensic Sciences
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Biology and Serology
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Cyber and Multimedia Forensics
- M.Sc. in Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Physics and Ballistics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Crime Scene Management
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Photography
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Biology and Serology
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Ballistics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Multimedia Forensics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Cyber and Digital Forensics

Department of Biotechnology & Bioengineering
- M.Tech Biotechnology & Biochemical Engineering
- M.Tech Biomedical Engineering

School of Agriculture
- M.Sc (Agriculture) Agronomy
- M.Sc (Agriculture) Entomology
- M.Sc (Agriculture) Soil Science
- M.Sc (Hort.) Fruit Science
- MBA (Agribusiness Management)
- MBA (Agribusiness Management) in association with SARM
- MBA Rural Management in association with SARM

School of Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Constitutional law and Governance
- Master of Law (LLM) in Corporate Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Criminal Law & Criminal Justice
- Master of Law (LLM) in Environmental Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Intellectual Property Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Law and Emerging Technology

School of Allied Health Sciences
- Master of Physiotherapy (Cardiology)
- Master of Physiotherapy (Sports Medicine)
- Master of Physiotherapy (Orthopaedics)
- Master of Physiotherapy (Neurology)
- Masters in Optometry
- M.Sc in Cardiovascular Technology
- M.Sc in Medical Lab Technology
- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology- Clinical Biochemistry
- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology- Clinical Microbiology
- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology-Pathology
- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology- Clinical Hematology
- M.Sc (Yoga Therapy)
- MBA in Healthcare Management
- Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Music Therapy

School of Medical and Allied Sciences
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Chemistry) Approved by Pharmacy Council of India
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics) Approved by Pharmacy Council of India
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmacology) Approved by Pharmacy Council of India
- MBA in Pharmaceutical Management

School of Media & Communication Studies
- M.A in Journalism and Mass Communication
- M.Sc. Cinema in association with GKFTII

School of Design
- M.Sc. In Fashion Design (In Association with GKFTII)
- M.Des. in Interaction Design
- M.Des. in Interior and Spatial Design
- M.Des. in Design Research & Insights

School of Education
- M.Ed (approved by National Council for Teacher Education)

School of Vocational Education
- MA Child Psychology (Internship/ Apprenticeship Embedded)

Diploma Programs

School of Allied Health Sciences
- Yoga Instructor Course (YIC)
- Diploma in Advanced Music Therapy

School of Medical & Allied Sciences
Department of Pharmacy
- Diploma in pharmacy (D.Pharm) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)

School of Polytechnic
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- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Network Essentials)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Web Designing)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Cloud Computing & IT Infrastructure)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (AI & ML)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Data Analytics)
- Diploma in Electric Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in Electric Engineering (Renewable Energy)
- Diploma in Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in IC Manufacturing
- Diploma in Civil Engineering
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering

Certificate Programs

Department of Forensic Sciences
- Certificate course in Social Media Crimes
- Certificate course in Advanced crime scene management
- Certificate course in Forensic photography
- Certificate course in Graphology and personality profiling

School of Media & Communication Studies
All certificate courses are in association with India Today Media Institute
- Certificate Course in Art of Anchoring & Presentation
- Certificate Course in AI in Newsroom
- Certificate Course in Events Management
- Certificate Course in Data Journalism
- Certificate Course in Media Graphics and Visualization
- Certificate Course in Integrated Marketing Communication

School of Languages
- Certificate in Japanese
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M BG-BGE

CM: Will discuss naming metro station after FM Cariappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has confirmed that the proposal to name a metro station in Bengaluru after Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, will be taken up for discussion in the State Cabinet.

This announcement came during an event organised by the Kodava Samaja Bengaluru on Sunday.

The Kodava community has been actively pushing for the honour since July 2024. They formally requested BMRCL to name one of the metro stations after Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa.

The Kodava Samaja had met with M. Maheshwar Rao, managing director of BMRCL, to submit this appeal, suggesting a station near Kamaraj Road as a fitting tribute owing to its proximity to Army land and the Cariappa Memorial Park.

At the same event, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar also expressed his support for the initiative. He said: "The Chief Minister and I will discuss on naming a metro station after Field Marshal Cariappa. It would be our privilege to do so."

SC survey: Only 48% of projected population in Bengaluru covered

The sluggish response to the survey of Scheduled Caste households in the State capital comes even after multiple extensions; in contrast, the coverage has been above expectations in 11 districts, and across the State it is 90.64%

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

FILE PHOTO

The survey of Scheduled Caste (SC) households in Karnataka being conducted for internal reservation has received sluggish response within Bengaluru limits, even after multiple extensions. In the State capital, despite a provision for voluntary disclosure of details online, just about 48% of the projected population has been covered so far. Interestingly, coverage has been above expectations in 11 districts. Across the State, the coverage is 90.64%.

With teachers who have been the enumerators returning to schools with the commencement of the academic year, the survey is now dependent on Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) bill collectors, who have been asked to identify and pass on details of SC households, following which the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials are visiting them. The survey has been extended up to June 22.

1,200 families a day

"On an average, we are getting just about 1,200 families a day after the survey was extended. The response has been poor. Without enumerators, how effective can a Bescom bill reader be?" asked a source in the H.N. Nagmohan Das Commission.

Mr. Das is looking into the pending demand of internal reservation among SCs to slice up the 17% reservation among the Dalit left, the Dalit right, and other touchable SCs.

So far, 26.39 lakh families with a population of 1.05 crore have been covered in the enumeration that started on May 5. The deadline for door-to-door survey was extended twice. There were four extensions for collation of data through special camps and online.

In the first 10 days of the enumeration, about 74% of the households had been covered in the door-to door visits. Besides, persons from SC communities have been given an opportunity to attend booth-level camps to register or use the online facility. While the 2011 Census mapped 21.4 lakh families with a population of 1.04 crore, the commission focused on covering 25.72 lakh projected households in 2025.

"The coverage in Bengaluru has been poor. When the first extension was given, about 43% had been covered. After the second extension, the coverage is about 48%. Apart from complaints of enumerators not being allowed inside apartment complexes and gated communities, SC families not identifying themselves for the fear of stigma, and enumerators not being available on ground, the general interest among the SC population in Bengaluru has not been encouraging," the source said.

Rural-urban divide

Of the 13.62 lakh projected population of SCs in Bengaluru (BBMP limits), 6.58 lakh persons have been covered so far. Bengaluru Urban (excluding BBMP limits) and Bengaluru Rural districts have recorded 80% and 87%, respectively. In fact, the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes in 2015 had also faced problems in Bengaluru where its coverage remained 85%, when the overall average was 95%. An opportunity has been given to people to register even at BangaloreOne or GramaOne.

In contrast, enumeration has been above expectation in 11 districts, where numbers are found to be higher than projected.

Survey matters

- Total population of Scheduled Castes in Karnataka in 2011 Census: **1.04 crore**
- Projected population in 2025: **1.16 crore**
- Commencement of survey of Scheduled Castes population: **May 5, 2025**
- Population covered in State: **1.05 crore** or **90.64%**
- Projected population in BBMP area: **13.62 lakh**
- Population covered so far: **6.58 lakh** or **48%**
- Survey involves: Door-to-door enumeration, booth-level camps, online registration and registration at GramaOne and BangaloreOne

Well-performing districts

- Haveri: **111.27%**
- Gadag and Davangere: **108%**
- Udupi: **106%**
- Bagalkot: **105%**
- Dharwad and Uttara Kannada: **104%**
- Mandya: **103%**
- Hassan: **102%**
- Tumakuru and Chamarajanagar: **101%**

Bengaluru stampede: BJP ups ante against State government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> Lapses in administration, the government's actions post the incident, and attempts to shield influential individuals have led to widespread doubts
>
> **R. ASHOK,**
> Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly

Upping the ante against the Congress government regarding the stampede that claimed 11 lives during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's victory celebrations in Bengaluru, the BJP has not only scheduled a protest in Bengaluru on Tuesday demanding resignation of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, but has also reiterated its demand for convening a special legislature session to discuss the issue.

Protest tomorrow

The BJP which had put off its protest scheduled on June 13 owing to the plane tragedy in Ahmedabad, has now decided to hold it on Tuesday. Announcing the fresh date for the protest, K. Gopalaiah, BJP MLA, on Sunday said all MPs, legislators, and prominent leaders will take part in the protest at Freedom Park.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok has written to the Chief Minister, reiterating the demand for convening an emergency session of the State legislature to discuss the reasons for the stampede.

In the letter, Mr. Ashok said the stampede had raised serious questions. "The tragedy has caused anxiety and concern among the public. Lapses in administration, the government's actions post the incident, and attempts to shield influential individuals have led to widespread doubts. Three separate probes are being conducted to conceal the truth, and helpless officials are being made scapegoats."

He emphasised the need for a comprehensive discussion on measures to prevent such incidents. The session should address the issues related to thorough investigation into the circumstances of the stampede, strengthening crowd control and safety measures at public events, ensuring proper treatment for the injured, providing compensation to affected families, and outlining the State government's plans to avoid such incidents, he said.

JD(S) is a party of workers, not a family-run outfit, says Deve Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Disputing his detractors, who have termed the Janata Dal (Secular) as a 'family-run party', former Prime Minister and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday said that it was a party of workers.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, and JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy launching a phone number for a membership drive in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Party has endured'

"Many great leaders have held offices through this party, and many are still serving. Some have held positions and left, but the party has endured. Amidst the two national parties, the JD(S) has remained a strong regional force," the former Prime Minister said during the launch of 'Janarondige Janata Dal' campaign being led by his grandson and youth unit president Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

Janata Dal (Secular) launches 'Janarondige Janata Dal' campaign

"We have opened offices in the name of Jayaprakash Narayan across the country. Do those who mock us have the moral right to speak? They call us a family party. Our party does not belong to any one family or dynasty."

Stating that no one will be able to finish the JD(S), he said: "(Former Prime Minister) Morarji Desai handed me this party. No matter how many splits the Janata Dal faced, this party has survived and will survive even after I am gone. Mark my words. No one will ever be born who can destroy the party."

On the string of electoral losses that the party has suffered, he said that there was no question of losing heart over it.

"Losses lay the foundation for victories. I am only suffering from leg pain and my memory is intact. Call wherever you want [for party work] and I will come. The loss [in Channapatna bypolls] has not deterred our confidence. We will rise again and the party has that strength."

Without naming anyone, he also accused political opponents of running a misinformation campaign against his son and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy by accusing him of corruption.

"They will never be successful. They are making unfounded charge of corruption. They will never be able to prove it. Some people cannot digest Mr. Kumaraswamy's popularity. No one has waived farmers' loans the way he has done."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

BSY, KSE come together

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa *(pictured)*, who were once close friends, had virtually become hostile towards each other after the last Lok Sabha elections.

But they were seen together at the marriage reception of the son of B.Y. Raghavendra, Shivamogga MP. At the reception held at Shikaripur, Mr. Eshwarappa, who was expelled from the BJP, was seen greeting the couple and posing for cameras with his one-time party colleague Mr. Yediyurappa. His photos with the former Chief Minister, his sons Mr. Raghavendra, (father of the groom, Subash), and State BJP chief B.Y. Vijayendra went viral on social media.

The BJP expelled Mr. Eshwarappa from the party after he chose to contest the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat as an Independent in 2024, after his son K.E. Kanthesh was denied the party ticket to contest the Haveri seat. Since then, he has continued to make comments against Mr. Yediyurappa and his sons. He alleged that the BJP's State unit was in the grip of one family.

At the marriage reception, both leaders came face-to-face and greeted each other. Mr. Raghavendra felicitated Mr. Eshwarappa and his son. Later, Mr Eshwarappa was seen talking jovially with Mr. Vijayendra. All eyes, obviously, were on them.

Speaker's plea

Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader *(pictured)* recently expressed anguish over the killings of ragpicker Ashraf, murder-accused and former Bajrang Dal activist Suhas Shetty, and Abdul Rahiman.

Mr. Khader called upon people not to support the accused in these three crimes and appealed to advocates not to plead the case of the accused persons.

When a reporter questioned him as to how he, who holds a Constitutional post, can ask advocates not to represent the accused, who are innocent until proven guilty, Mr. Khader quickly retracted his statement, saying that knowing the sentiments of the people he had appealed not to support wrongdoers. "I have been an advocate. I cannot prevent advocates from discharging their professional duty. My statement is in a general sense asking people not to support wrongdoers," he said.

DKS' clout with the top brass

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar *(pictured)* seems to be having considerable clout with the Congress' central leaders. It appears like Mr. Shivakumar gained the upper hand in scrapping the 2105 caste census, stalling the Cabinet reshuffle, and his replacement as the KPCC chief. Last year, the KPCC chief managed to stop Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's loyalists from holding "Siddaramaiah Swabhimani Samavesha" in Hassan and later the programme was renamed "Jana Kalyana Samavesha." and held under the party's banner.

In January last, through Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka, the Deputy Chief Minister stopped "dinner meeting" of SC/ST Ministers called by Home Minister G. Parameshwara. Though loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah made multiple trips to Delhi seeking replacement of Mr. Shivakumar as KPCC chief and the multiple posts he holds, the high command turned down their requests and continued to keep faith in the Deputy Chief Minister.

Sathish G.T.
Raghava M.
Nagesh Prabhu

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, Bengaluru
4th Floor, BSNL, Telephone House Building,
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(See Sec.25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 48 to 51 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961)

TRC No. 211/2017(DRC 9945) in O.A No. 368/2014

Between
City Union Bank Ltd, Koramanagala Branch ... Certificate Holder Bank
- And -
Mr. Mahesh and Another ... Certificate Debtors/CDRs

CDRs :
1. **Mr. Mahesh,** S/o. Maregowda, No.45, Honnaghatta Village, Kodigehalli Post, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore.
2. **Mrs. Annapurna,** W/o. Mahesh, No.45, Honnaghatta Village, Kodigehalli Post, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore. **... Certificate Debtors**

Whereas the above named Certificate Debtors were ordered through the above referred Recovery Certificate to pay to the Applicant Bank (Certificate Holder) a Sum of **Rs.74,32,012/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Thirty Two Thousand and Twelve only)** together with interest and Costs as per R.C. till the date of Realization and whereas the said Sum has not been paid by the CDRs/you.

This is to command you to attach the immovable Property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed or which shall be pointed out to you by the said certificate and unless the said certificate debtors shall pay to you the above said Sum as per R.C. and the Costs of this attachment to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the Warrant on or before 01-07-2025 with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not been executed.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY AS PER RC

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural properties 01-06 are situated in Honnaghatta Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, The Property No 7 is situated at Maragondanahalli Village Bangalore Rural District Owned by Mr. Mahesh (CD No.1/Defendant No.1)

No.	Sy. No.	Area	North by	West by	East by	South by
1	7/4	1A04G	Chenna Krishnappa Kempanna	Byre Gowda Kempanna	Srinivas	Mahesh Chennamma
2	7/5	OA35G	Own Property	Venkatesh Prasad	Mahesh	Najegowda
3	6/5	OA03G	Narayanamma	Own Property	Road	Shivappa
4	7/2A	OA27G	Venkatesh	Krishnappa	Venkatesh	Thimme

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY AS PER RC

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building Rural Property bearing Khaneshumari No 27/49 situated at Honnaghatta Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, Owned by Mr. Mahesh (CD/Defendant No 1) Bangalore Rural District Measuring : East to West : 45", North to South : 42", in Total 1,890 sq. ft. situated at and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Nanje Goeda's House, North by : Road, South by : Appaiyanna's House.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **28-05-2025.**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRASANTHI PALUKURI W/O MALLIKARJUNUDU PALUKURI R/O A305 K R Grandview Heights T C Palya Main Road Ramamurthynagar Doorvaninagar Bengaluru Karnataka–560016 changed my name to PRASANTHI PACHIPULUSU.

I, SHANKAR Swaminathan, S/o Swaminathan Ramachandran, R/at No.C-306, Purva Fountain Square, Varthur Main Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name from Muthu Shankar Swaminathan to Shankar Swaminathan vide affidavit dated 13-06-2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, TANISHKAA Guptaa, D/o Nishchal Prakash Gupta, R/at No.258, 11th Cross, Near Nagarbhavi Circle, Vidyagiri Layout, Bangalore-560072 have changed my name from Tanishka Gupta to Tanishkaa Guptaa vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NEHA BHARATHKUMAR SONI,** W/o Bharathkumar Soni, age 32 years, R/at No. SF2, A Block, Elegant Embassy 3, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, Near SBI Bank, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560 098 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NEHA RAJESH LAHOTI** to **NEHA BHARATHKUMAR SONI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NEHA BHARATHKUMAR SONI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14th June 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M.K. DEVAKI** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abbas Ali S/O, Taher Ali Bohra R/o Opera White House #gf-d, 5th Cross, Jyothi Nagar, Bohara Layout, Bg Rd, Gottigere, B'luru-560083 have changed my name to Abbas Ali Taher Ali Bohra for all purposes.

I, Saeeda Bee W/O, Abbas Ali R/o Opera White House G F D ,5th Cross Jyothi Nagar Bohara Layout B G Road, Gottigere, B'luru-560083 have changed my name to Sayeeda Abbas Ali Bohra for all purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate-II at Tambaram
DCV.NO.20/2024

SURYA VINOTH KUMAR — VS — PETITIONER RESPONDENT

To,
C. Vinoth Kumar
s/o Chandran,
S7 Anjan Blossom Apts, Varansi Main Road
NRI Layout, Banglore-560016.

The Petitioner has filed DVC. No. 20 of 2024 against you and this case came up before this Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate-II at Tambaram on 30.05.2025. Hon'ble Lordship was pleased to order notice through news paper to you to appear on 15.07.2025. Kindly make it convenient to appear before the said court without fail. In default of your appearance the same will be heard and decided in your absence.

M.SHANKAR
ADVOCATE CHENNAI

Wild elephant, calf electrocuted in Sakleshpur taluk

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Two wild elephants, including a calf, were found electrocuted in an estate near Guddabetta in Sakleshpur taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka, on Sunday. The female elephant was aged around 25, and the female calf's age was two.

A file photo of elephants spotted in Hassan district.

Wire had snapped

The elephants reportedly came in contact with a snapped wire and died. It is suspected that the live wire was cut following heavy rains in the locality.

Local forest officials and the police reached the spot and examined the scene.

Several elephants, spread over different groups, have been roaming in parts of Sakleshpur, Alur, Belur, and Arkalgud in Hassan district.

Deaths

Incidents of human-elephant conflicts have been reported in the district often. Nearly 100 people have died in elephant attacks in the district in the last 10 years. Similarly, many elephants too have died.

Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hassan, said that the elephants died after they came in contact with the live wire that had fallen on the ground.

"The wire was on the ground, as it had snapped after a tree fell on the electric line during heavy rains and strong winds. The post-mortem was conducted in the evening. Officers from the electricity supply company also visited the spot and gathered information," he stated.

The wire was on the ground, as it had snapped after a tree fell on the electric line during heavy rains and strong winds, says Deputy Conservator of Forests

This was the fourth such incident in the last 18 months. Two such cases were reported in Sakleshpur and one in Arkalgud earlier.

"I am planning to hold a meeting with officers of all departments concerned on the issue and analyse the reasons for such incidents. We will discuss how such deaths can be avoided in the future," he added.

Five youth drown in the Godavari in Telangana town

The dead include three brothers; they had come as part of 18-member group to a temple at Basar in Nirmal district; police stop boating service

Shocking tragedy: Family members of the five youngsters during a search for them in the Godavari at Basar in Nirmal district on Sunday. THE HINDU

P. Sridhar
NIRMAL

A visit to the Goddess Gnana Saraswati temple at Basar in Nirmal district of Telangana turned tragic for a group of devotees from Hyderabad as five of them drowned in the Godavari in the temple town on Sunday.

Three of the deceased are siblings.

Sources said five youngsters, part of an 18-member group, had drowned after getting caught in strong undercurrents while taking bath in the river around 11 a.m.

The youngsters ventured into the water at a sand dune in the river, unaware of its depth. They reportedly reached the spot about 100 metres from the bathing ghat by a private boat operated by local youth.

On receiving information, the local police rushed to the spot and retrieved the bodies from the river with the help of swimmers.

The deceased have been identified as brothers Rakesh, 20, Madan, 18, and Bharath, 16, their relative Vinod, 19, and their neighbour Rithik, 22, the police said.

The family of the siblings originally hailed from Rajasthan and had settled at Chintal in Hyderabad.

The bodies were shifted to a mortuary in Bhainsa town for post-mortem examination.

Poignant scenes were witnessed on the banks of the river as Sony, the mother of the siblings, broke down next to the bodies of the youngsters.

Meanwhile, the district revenue authorities have reportedly suspended private boat operations at the bathing ghat along the banks of the Godavari river following the tragedy.

The Basar police have registered a case and are investigating.

Missing minor girls from A.P. rescued

The Hindu Bureau
BHIMAVARAM

The West Godavari district police traced two minor girls to Chennai city within 24 hours of their disappearance from Tadepalligudem rural area. The girls aged 16 and 14 had left their homes on the night of June 12, allegedly attempting to elope with their respective boyfriends .

The girls who are neighbours were guided by their boyfriends to travel to Chennai by train. The incident came to light after their parents lodged a complaint with the police.

West Godavari Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi has said that the minor girls arrived in Chennai, from where they reportedly attempted to elope with their boyfriends.

Man held on theft charge

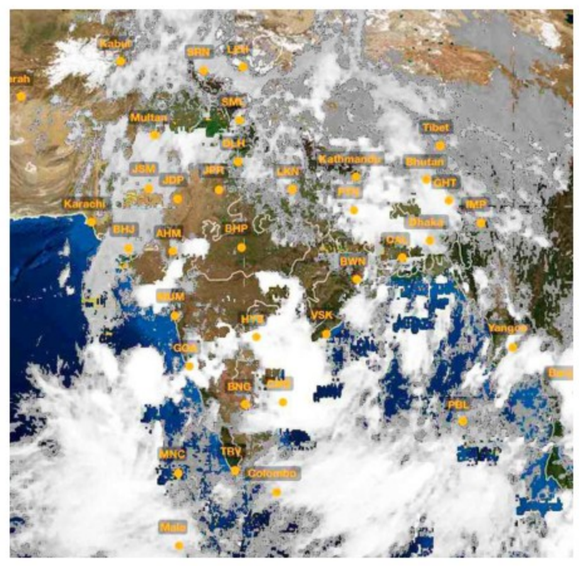
The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Chittoor police on Sunday arrested a habitual thief with a passion for the silver screen and recovered stolen property worth ₹18 lakh. The accused identified as N. Anand (39) of Bengaluru was nabbed on the Bengaluru-Chennai Bypass Road.

Anand confessed that he resorted to theft after his bid to produce a Kannada film "*Keechakudu*" in 2020 failed and made him debt-ridden.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat State, Kerala, Mahe, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Odisha, Karnataka, Puducherry and Karaikal and Uttarakhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5.0	34.0	27.8	Kozhikode	81.0	27.5	23.4
Ahmedabad	1.0	37.5	26.5	Kurnool	—	32.9	26.2
Aizawl	82	31.3	22.2	Lucknow	2.4	39.9	26.2
Allahabad	13.0	45.0	25.9	Madurai	—	36.5	26.1
Bengaluru	0.6	27.7	19.9	Mangaluru	129.9	26.3	22.7
Bhopal	11.0	35.6	24.0	Mumbai	19.0	30.9	26.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.2	27.2	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	41.2	41.2	New Delhi	7.8	35.5	23.7
Chennai	—	36.2	—	Patna	—	38.7	31.9
Coimbatore	0.8	26.4	22.4	Port Blair	7.0	29.7	24.5
Dehradun	—	30.2	26.5	Puducherry	—	35.4	25.6
Gangtok	11.0	25.4	18.5	Pune	—	31.0	26.1
Goa	108.0	29.0	24.5	Raipur	—	38.0	28.0
Guwahati	12.0	35.4	25.8	Ranchi	—	35.2	—
Hubballi				Shillong	13.0	25.4	18.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	23.7	Shimla	—	27.0	19.8
Imphal	2.0	29.0	23.8	Srinagar	—	31.8	17.2
Jaipur	0.7	42.3	29.6	Thiruvananthapuram	40.0	29.5	23.0
Kochi	90.0	28.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	35.7	26.4
Kohima	27.2	20.0	12.5	Vijayawada			
Kolkata	0.4	31.9	29.2	Visakhapatnam	0.8	30.9	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.63	.33	.29	45	65	
Bengaluru	9	.29	.32	62	78	
Chennai	.15	.20	.88	41	59	
Delhi	.10	.35	.14	91	202	
Hyderabad	5	.26	.10	310	—	
Kolkata	3	.50	.19	55	54	
Lucknow	.10	.11	.43	96	60	
Mumbai	.20	.22	.19	38	68	
Pune	.10	—	121	53	53	
Visakhapatnam	7	.83	.39	50	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 304 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 10.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bodies of five people who died in Kenya arrive in Kochi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The bodies of five people from Kerala, who were killed in a bus accident in Kenya on June 9 while on a visit to the country, were brought by a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to the Cochin International Airport on Sunday morning.

Those killed are Jasna, 29, from Muvattupuzha; her one-year-old daughter Roohi Mehrin; Geetha Shoji Isaac, 58, from Cherukol, near Mavelikara; and Riya Ann, 41; and her daughter Tyra Rodrigues, 7, from Kanhirampara, Mannoor, in Palakkad.

The bodies were received at the airport by Minister for Industries P. Rajeeve and others.

Priyanka accuses Kerala's LDF government of politicising welfare pension payment

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday told voters of Nilambur that electing United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Aryadan Shoukath in the June 19 Assembly bye-election would enable her to work more effectively to deliver benefits to the constituency.

"We need to get work done for you. We can do it together. We can put all our resources and all our force and strength into doing it together," said Ms. Vadra addressing a rally as part of the UDF campaign at Moothedam on Sunday evening.

She highlighted the potential benefits of having a strong alliance between the MP and MLA.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Aryadan Shoukath during a roadshow in Nilambur on Sunday evening. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Nilambur Assembly segment is part of the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency.

Ms. Vadra accused the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala of politicising the welfare pension of ₹1,600 a month paid to the poor.

She said the pensions must be paid on time, not selectively or opportunistically by the government. People relied on this pension and its timely disbursal was crucial, she said.

She criticised the State government for its treatment of Acrredited Social Health Activists.

She warned the government that the lives and livelihoods of the people should not be subject to political manipulations.

Death of boy

Ms. Vadra also criticised the government for its failure to prevent the accidental death of Ananthu, a 15-year-old boy who was electrocuted after coming into contact with an illegal power trap set for wild boars at Vazhikkadavu last week.

"Even our UDF cadres have to be alert to help and to impress upon authorities when such issues need urgent action, so that such accidents can be prevented. There is no point in blaming old laws or saying that it is somebody else's fault," she said.

Congress general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Deepa Dasmunshi, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph, UDF convener Adoor Prakash, AICC working committee member Ramesh Chennithala, Indian Union Muslim League district president Syed Abbasali Shihab Thangal, KPCC working president A.P. Anil Kumar, and District Congress Committee (DCC) president V.S. Joy were among those who accompanied Ms. Vadra in the roadshow.

Telangana local body election notification likely by June-end

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The notification for local body elections in Telangana is likely to be issued by June-end and the dates will be finalised in the Cabinet meeting, Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said on Sunday.

Addressing a meeting of Congress leaders from the Palair constituency in Khammam, he said elections would be held in phases, beginning with MPTC and ZPTC polls, followed by the panchayat elections.

Mr. Reddy said with little time left for the elections, it was time the Congress leaders and the cadre set aside their personal differences and worked to elect the party candidates. He asked them to focus on public issues. Minor differences, if any, should be overlooked in the party's larger interest, he said.

Mr. Reddy urged the party cadre to take the welfare activities taken up by the Congress government to the people to counter the false propaganda of the Opposition parties. So much is being done for the rural sector, but the party leaders have not been successful in taking it to the beneficiaries. The Minister said there are likely to be many aspirants for the party tickets in the elections and they would be selected on winnability factor, their service to the party and also the reservation criterion.

NDA government failed to fulfil election promises: YSRCP

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

YSRCP (Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party) leaders released a book titled *Jagan ante nammakam, Chandrababu ante mosam* at a programme held at the party office in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

Rajya Sabha member Golla Babu Rao, Visakhapatnam district president K.K. Raju, former MLA V. Ganesh Kumar and MLC Varudu Kalyani were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Babu Rao said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu should have earned a Ph.D in deceiving people and misusing public funds. He accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of betraying people by failing to fulfil its election promises.

The party accuses the NDA government of betraying people by failing to fulfil its election promises

Ms. Kalyani criticised the government for remaining silent on the rise in crimes against women.

Medium and message: Kerala child rights panel to launch Internet radio for children

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Come June 18, children in Kerala will get to enjoy an Internet radio station made exclusively for them, thanks to the efforts of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KeSCPCR). Radio Nellikka will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Programme schedule

The Internet radio will begin with four hours of programming initially that can be heard from anywhere in the world. New programmes will be broadcast from Monday to Friday, while repeat programmes will be aired on Saturday and Sunday.

Radio Nellikka will be inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The idea of an Internet radio for children was first conceived during the previous tenure of KeSCPCR Chairperson K.V. Manoj Kumar, who, inspired by various local radio groups among children, thought of translating the idea to a wider canvas, especially considering the commission's reach. The idea is finally coming to fruition in Mr. Kumar's second tenure.

The launch of the radio assumes greater significance especially against the backdrop of growing mental health challenges, ills of substance abuse, perils of cyberspace, increasing social media addiction and rise in suicide by children.

Mr. Kumar says that as the commission has as its objective the creation of a child-friendly Kerala, messages and promotions towards that, laws related to children, commission's orders, and children's rights and responsibilities will all be dealt with during the various programmes intended to reach children through parents. The idea is to reach out to people through messages on children's protection, education, and empowerment.

The commission also hopes to put across its orders to society without risks of misinterpretation through the radio, says Mr. Kumar.

Speeches by prominent personalities and interactions with experts will be broadcast to examine aspects related to child safety and prevention of violence and abuse against them.

The commission will prepare segments related to its orders and news and other official matters. An internal committee has been formed to analyse the programmes broadcast.

Radio Nellikka is available on Play Store and App Store or can be accessed on atradionellikka.com

RTC puts a woman in the driver's seat

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) just got its first woman driver. V. Saritha, a native of Sithya thanda in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, will drive an electric bus along the Hyderabad-Miryalguda route.

Ms.Saritha has vast experience and has worked with a transport corporation in Delhi.

Recently, she met Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and expressed her desire to return to her roots and that she be given an opportunity to serve in her home State.

Fire on waters

India's maritime firefighting capabilities are standing up to the test

The Indian coast needs to be protected against three types of major peacetime maritime accidents involving merchant ships: sinking of merchant ships, causing the loss of cargo, disruption of maritime traffic, and environmental damage; fire onboard merchant vessels that can seriously threaten not just the environment but also life and property on the coast; and oil spills. The recent fire onboard *MV Wan Hai 503,* that started with explosions when the ship was some 44 nautical miles off the Azhikkal coast in Kannur, Kerala, on June 9, has been successfully controlled now. Photographs of the ship showed a cocktail of smoke of brown, white, grey and black colours billowing out, indicating that many substances were burning. The cargo manifest showed that more than 140 of the 1,754 containers had various types of hazardous cargo. Coast Guard officials report that the raging *Wan Hai* had started drifting dangerously towards the coast even as firefighting was on and the sea remained rough under monsoon conditions. A tow rope was passed onto the ship but it snapped. An Indian Navy helicopter flew in to airdrop a salvage team and pass a wire rope that was made of steel, which was then used to tow the ship 45 nautical miles away from the coast where the depth is nearly one kilometre. The owner of the vessel pitched in by commandeering tugs through their agents. *Wan Hai* does not pose an immediate danger to the Indian coast now. Smoke is still seen from the ship and there are hot spots, but it is now up to the ship owner to salvage the vessel after completely putting out the fire.

Most of the patrol vessels, the workhorse of the Coast Guard, are now fitted with firefighting equipment since firefighting is a key mandate of the agency. While hazardous cargo on containers are indeed a major fire hazard, a more severe fire hazard is oil. Gas-carrying merchant ships are perhaps the greatest fire and explosion hazards. Nightmare scenarios that can bring the world to its knees involve gas carrier accidents at choke points such as the Suez Canal or the Strait of Malacca off Singapore. In 2020, the Indian Coast Guard and Navy successfully put out a massive fire that broke out off Colombo on the Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC), *New Diamond*, chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation. The VLCC was carrying 2,70,000 tonnes of crude oil and bound for Paradip in Odisha. That these ships were structurally intact despite week-long infernos is a testament as much to the maritime firefighting capabilities of India as the advanced design, materials and construction of the ships. Quick salvage of sunk ships and fighting oil spills, which require quick, extensive and close multi-agency coordination, are the other areas where India needs to build and demonstrate more expertise.

Mind the gap

India needs to ensure women's participation in policymaking

India has dropped two points from its position last year in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index report, holding at 131 out of 148 countries. The parity score is just 64.1%, making it among one of the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia, according to the report released last week. The Index measures gender parity in a country across four aspects – economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival, and political empowerment. While the performance of India in three of the four dimensions is either stable or has marginally improved, the significant lack of achievement in the fourth weighs down the overall result. The report says, in the economic participation and opportunity category, India has improved by +0.9 percentage points. The parity in estimated earned income rises from 28.6% to 29.9%, positively impacting the subindex score, the report said. Scores in labour force participation rate remained the same (45.9%) as last year – India's highest achieved to date. In the educational attainment and health and survival categories, the scores have been driven up by positive shifts. It is in the political empowerment category that India records a drop in parity, since the last evaluation. Female representation in Parliament fell from 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025, lowering the indicator score for the second year in a row below 2023 levels. Also evaluated was the share of women in ministerial roles, which fell from 6.5% to 5.6 %, continuing the sinking trend since 2023.

The path ahead is obvious – consolidate and improve on the gains and make efforts to set right the lacunae with policies and political will. India has had a long, shameful tussle on this issue as it toyed with the idea of increasing representation for women in polity. The controversial Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 2023, 27 years after it was first introduced in 1996. The Bill has been visited upon by many charades, was blocked at every turn, and the path to actualisation of the goal was lined with monumental impediments. The present Act reserves one third of the seats for women in Parliament and the State legislatures, but will only be implemented from 2029, after the completion of the Census, and the delimitation exercise. But India climbing up the ranks of a global index should be only secondary to achieving a rounded, applause-worthy, gender parity structure within the country. There is, also, nothing keeping political parties from increasing women's participation in the electoral process, even before the law necessitates it.

More 'mind space' for India in America's imagination

Nirupama Rao

is a former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to the United States

Why is there no 'Schwarzman Scholars' programme for India? Why does a country of 1.4 billion people – an ancient civilisation, a dynamic economy, a nuclear power, and a key player in the Indo-Pacific – still appear marginal in the priorities of elite American institutions? The answer lies not merely in policy lag but in perception, psychology, and deeply embedded narratives that continue to shape the West's engagement with Asia.

The Schwarzman Scholars programme

The 'Schwarzman Scholars' programme, launched in 2016 and based at Beijing's Tsinghua University, was explicitly modelled after the Rhodes Scholarship (founded in 1902). Its mission is ambitious: to cultivate a future generation of global leaders, deeply familiar with China's systems, strategic worldview, and societal aspirations. That no such equivalent programme exists for India is not an accident. It is the culmination of decades of lopsided intellectual investment – one that privileges China as essential, and views India, at best, as peripheral.

This imbalance was presciently explored by Harold R. Isaacs in his seminal work, *Scratches on Our Minds: American Images of China and India* (1958). Isaacs uncovered the psychological residue – "scratches", as he termed them – left on American consciousness by media, education, missionary engagement, and diplomatic narratives. China loomed large in this imagination: revolutionary, mystical, dangerous, promising. India, by contrast, was filtered through colonial British lenses: remote, spiritual, chaotic, and, ultimately, less urgent.

Even today, those scratches endure. India is often misunderstood, misrepresented, or, more often, simply missing in the frameworks that shape western elite understanding. The Cold War's bipolar logic left India unmoored in American strategic thinking. China was a site of ideological competition, and later, a partner in global capitalism. India, non-aligned and self-reliant, never fit the template. Its democracy attracted rhetorical admiration, but its strategic ambivalence dampened deeper interest.

This selective seduction continued into the 21st century. China masterfully framed its rise as an opportunity – and the West was psychologically prepared to believe it. Scholars such as Australian sinologist Stephen FitzGerald described in the 1980s how the West "wanted China to succeed" – economically, politically, even ideologically. China offered a compelling, seductive narrative of transformation: poverty to prosperity, isolation to globalisation, authoritarian control with capitalist efficiency. Western business leaders, academics and policymakers were drawn in. Programmes such as Schwarzman were not just reflections of China's pull –they were symptoms of the West's emotional and intellectual readiness to be seduced.

India needs to ensure that it captures intellectual space in the American imagination, and is understood on its own terms

India never orchestrated such seduction. It emerged from colonialism with a focus on sovereignty and self-reliance. It rebuffed bloc politics, avoided entanglements, and developed slowly and unevenly. Its strengths – pluralistic democracy, entrepreneurial diaspora, and cultural richness – did not easily translate into strategic urgency or narrative coherence for the West. While the Chinese state invested heavily in soft power – through Confucius Institutes, think tanks, cultural exchanges, and university partnerships – India's outreach was modest, sporadic, and often bureaucratically constrained.

The problem with India-focused research

Even within American academia, the difference is stark. China Studies enjoys robust institutional support across top universities. With a few exceptions, India-focused research, by contrast, is fragmented, often subsumed under South Asian or Postcolonial Studies, with an emphasis on religion, anthropology, or classical languages. These are critical fields, but do not capture the lure of a civilisational state and a modern India that is shaping global technology, space innovation, climate policy, and strategic affairs. India appears in headlines, but rarely in syllabi.

The consequences are serious. Future American leaders, whether in diplomacy, business, or policy, are not being trained to understand India in its full complexity. The persistence of reductive frameworks, such as the old hyphenation of "India-Pakistan", continues to distort strategic thinking. U.S. President Donald Trump's repetitive remarks about mediating between India and Pakistan are not just personal gaffes. They reflect institutional inertia, a failure to update mental maps to match geopolitical reality.

And here lies a paradox: just as India's importance is rising, its visibility in American intellectual and philanthropic circuits remains limited. The absence of a flagship fellowship akin to Schwarzman is both a symbol and a cause of this gap. Such a programme would not just serve India's interests; it would meet a growing demand among global youth for deeper engagement with the world's largest democracy – its challenges, innovations, contradictions, and aspirations.

But for such a fellowship to succeed, India must first invest in the institutional foundation. Tsinghua University, where Schwarzman is housed, is not just a campus. It is a a brand, a node of state-backed ambition with global recognition. India has institutions of excellence – the Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, and emerging liberal arts universities such as Ashoka and Krea – but none as yet combine academic prestige, international pull, policy connectivity, and philanthropic momentum at the scale required.

This must change. India needs a globally oriented, strategically empowered academic platform that can host and nurture the next generation of world leaders – Indian and foreign – who understand India not just as a subject of study but as a site of leadership. Creating such an institution will require government will, private capital, academic autonomy, and long-term vision.

Narrative matters

India also needs to project its narrative with much more feeling and conviction. The Chinese have always felt they are a 'chosen' people. The world, from Napoleon, has felt the same. India is the Cinderella in this story. Strategic restraint and ambiguity has served Indian diplomacy in many arenas, but silence can be mistaken for absence and risk-aversion for reticence and a lack of confidence. Narrative matters. Global leadership today is as much about shaping perceptions as it is about GDP or military muscle. That means calling out outdated framing, investing in storytelling, and claiming intellectual space with confidence. The refrain of a rising GDP lifting all boats, of International Yoga Days, will not just do. Every few blocks in an American city you will find a yoga studio and an Indian restaurant. But does that change the power scene for India?

Ultimately, the battle for influence is not only fought in the corridors of power or in street corners, but is also shaped in classrooms, fellowships, research centres, and campus conversations. If India wants to be understood on its own terms, and not just as a counterweight to China or a bystander in someone else's story, it must be present in the places where ideas are formed and futures imagined.

The scratches on our minds can be healed, but not with silence. They require vision, voice, and a story compelling enough to inspire the next generation of global leaders. A Schwarzman-style fellowship in India would not just be a corrective. It would be a declaration that India is no longer content to be studied at a distance. It wants to be known, on its own terms.

India needs a sincere aircraft accident investigation

Captain Amit Singh

is an aviation safety expert, author, and Royal Aeronautical Society Fellow, pioneering human factors and cultural integration in aviation

In a country where every life lost in an aircraft accident should result in justice, transparency, and reform, we find ourselves, instead, battling a system that is seemingly designed to obscure the truth.

On paper, India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is a statutory and autonomous investigative body. In reality, it is anything but independent. It functions as an office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the very same authority that oversees airlines, regulates aviation through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and, crucially, appoints the leadership of the AAIB and the DGCA. This structure presents an apparent conflict of interest. In railway accidents, investigations are typically carried out by the Commissioner of Railway Safety or, occasionally, a judicial authority, and not by the Ministry of Railways. Although, technically, under the MoCA, the Commissioner is functionally independent of railway operators, this ensures that those running trains are not the ones investigating the derailments. But in aviation, the MoCA controls airline operations and accident investigations.

Stop the firefighting

The accident on June 12, 2025, at Ahmedabad was not just an operational occurrence. It was a full-fledged aircraft accident that should serve as a wake-up call. Is India's aviation safety framework keeping pace with its exponential growth? There have been a number of helicopter crashes, accidents involving flying schools, there was a weather-related incident in May 2025 that affected a Delhi-Srinagar IndiGo flight, and, in addition, troubling ground handling lapses, that include the cancellation of ground handler Çelebi Aviation's permit over security concerns. These are not isolated incidents but point to something more profound. Are we identifying and fixing risks before they become headlines? Or are we merely reacting? We cannot keep firefighting. We need a system that prevents failures, and not just manages the damage.

The high-level committee appointed to investigate the Air India AI171 crash must go beyond reviewing a single event. It must recognise that India's aviation ecosystem has outgrown the current National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP). In a complete revamp of the NCAP, 'safety' should be deeply woven into every regulation, operation and decision. That is how we prepare for the responsibilities that come with being one of the largest aviation markets in the world.

India does not lack the talent or the tools to investigate air accidents; what it lacks is institutional courage to tell the truth

A report that told inconvenient truths

The Air Marshal J.K. Seth Committee Report in 1997 was India's most honest and far-reaching review of aviation safety. But it was quietly buried because it told the truth. It highlighted key systemic flaws: fragmented oversight; lack of independence; inadequate training and resources, and regulatory capture. These issues remain largely unresolved. Any new committee must reckon with these truths and not repeat the pattern of superficial reviews and buried reports.

Too many accident reports have internal contradictions. In an accident in 2001, that claimed the life of a former Union Minister, 'entry into the cloud' was cited as the cause, while the meteorology section confirmed that there were no clouds around. Was it a mistake or does it point to something else? Overloading was evident in the Indian Airlines crash (IC491) in Aurangabad in 1993. Yet, the final report did not spell it out so clearly. This writer has pursued data for years in another case of suspected overloading on an Air India Express flight (IX611), in October 2018, from Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu to Dubai, only to be denied access. What is being protected?

The Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017 make one point clear – that the purpose of an investigation is to prevent future accidents, and not to assign blame. Yet, law enforcement and courts routinely misuse the AAIB's findings. The police, lacking the expertise and jurisdiction in aviation matters, rely almost entirely on the AAIB's reports, treating them as conclusive. The AAIB's findings are meant for safety learning, and not legal prosecution. When these reports are interpreted outside their technical scope, truth becomes a casualty.

Investigating officers unfamiliar with aviation treat the AAIB's "probable cause" as a legal verdict. The judiciary focuses on what is immediately visible, while the AAIB is meant to dig deeper. But both often end up blaming the pilot, the case is closed and the truth is left behind.

Why is pilot error so often the conclusion? Because it is convenient. Legally, it simplifies matters. From an insurance standpoint, a conclusion of pilot error helps expedite payouts. It closes the loop quickly, shielding other accountable entities – airlines, maintenance providers, and air traffic control, from scrutiny. The pilot becomes the system's scapegoat, even in death.

A front to protect people

Too often, accident investigations in India are reshaped to protect institutions, and not the people they serve. The MoCA holds all the levers, policy, regulation, appointments and investigations. With that much control, real accountability becomes a myth. Each time a family receives a hollow, contradictory report instead of honest answers, the system not only fails but also breaks faith. At times, the structure is so well-insulated from responsibility that it has perfected the art of getting away with murder – through delay, dilution and the quiet deletion of truth.

The International Civil Aviation Organization's State Safety Briefing (2022) says that India has had zero fatal accidents recently. But 21 lives were lost in the Kozhikode air crash in August 2020. The recommendations in the investigation and those of the committee to review the accident report have not been implemented duly. There is no accountability. No systemic change. Just silence. India cannot claim global leadership in aviation while hiding behind data. Absolute safety comes from integrity.

These are the steps needed. First, move the AAIB and DGCA to an independent statutory body that reports to Parliament. Second, stop having parallel committees that bypass or undermine established investigative bodies. Third, take legal steps to prevent the AAIB's findings from being used in criminal trials unless independently validated. Fourth, amend Rule 19(3) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which holds the powers to penalise a pilot for any mistake. There is a need to protect a pilot with a genuine no-blame culture, unless gross negligence is proven. Fifth, appoint an independent ombudsman to review how accident reports have been handled and mishandled.

It is not that India lacks the talent or the tools to investigate accidents. What it lacks is the institutional courage to tell the truth. Therefore, this writer's plea. Have an honest, sincere aircraft accident investigation; one that shows that India values truth and precious lives over image. Let that be India's legacy for those lives lost, not only in the skies but also in the silence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A troubling trend

I write this letter as the Additional Private Secretary to the Governor of Kerala. The controversy over the image of Bharat Mata at a World Environment Day function held at Raj Bhavan reflects a troubling trend — the politicisation of cultural and national symbols. What should have been a dignified state event turned into a needless flashpoint when the Agriculture Department objected to the inclusion of a traditional lamp and an image of Bharat Mata. Although the objection to the lamp was withdrawn, the image of Bharat Mata was rejected on the grounds that it was allegedly associated with a certain political organisation. Raj Bhavan even suggested an alternative image — Bharat Mata holding the national flag. Participation in the floral tribute programme was made voluntary. Yet, citing vague "protocol", the government called it off altogether. Governor Arlekar's response was measured: for him, Bharat Mata is above all politics. That this image is now being rejected not out of reason, but political insecurity, signals a drift from our civilisational roots.

P. Sreekumar,
Thiruvananthapuram

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

An FIR and an angry High Court

R.K. Vij
Former IPS officer

On May 14, the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed the State Police to register a First Information Report (FIR) against Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah for making allegedly inflammatory remarks against Indian Army officer, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. Aghast at the Minister's remarks, the Court directed the police to register an FIR against him for offences under Sections 152, 196(1)(b) and 197(1)(c) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which are related to acts endangering national unity and promoting enmity between groups.

Though a criminal case was registered against Mr. Shah on the same date at Raikunda village under the Manpur police station limits in Indore (Rural) district, the Court questioned the manner in which the FIR was written. It said that the FIR was "deficient in material particulars of the actions which constitute each of the specific offences" and could be "quashed on a later date". The Court, therefore, not only directed the police to consider the entire order of May 14 to be read as part of the FIR for all processes, but also decided to monitor the probe so that the police act fairly in accordance with the law without being influenced by any extraneous pressures.

Essential ingredients

While the law relating to the quashing of an FIR is well settled, so is the law relating to the registration of a cognisable offence. Section 171(1) of the BNS states that "every information relating to the commission of a cognisable offence", if given orally, will be written, and if communicated electronically, will be taken on record by the officer in charge of a police station. So, information pertaining to commission of a cognisable offence must be written in the FIR.

It is common for the police to reproduce the main complaint in the FIR if the complaint is given in writing. Even in a case where preliminary enquiry is conducted into a complaint which does not contain elements of a cognisable offence, the original complaint is reproduced in the FIR along with result of the enquiry. Therefore, though such an FIR may run into pages, the essential elements of an offence are not missed out.

It is also prudent to write elements of the cognisable offence in the FIR, which form the basis for application of various sections of the law, because this gives the accused an opportunity to seek bail and apply for other protections under the law.

There are many instances where the FIR has been found wanting in the ingredients of a cognisable offence and as a result, relief was provided by the constitutional courts. In *Vinod Dua v. Union of India* (2021), the Supreme Court, exercising its powers under Article 32 of the Constitution, quashed the FIR holding that "all the offences set out in the FIR are not made out". In *Arnab Goswami v. the State of Maharashtra* (2020), it granted bail to the appellant on the premise that "a prima facie evaluation of the FIR does not establish the ingredients of the offence of abetment of suicide".

Quashing of an FIR

The law relating to the quashing of an FIR is well settled. It is intrinsically entwined with the law relating to the writing of an FIR. High Courts can exercise their inherent powers under Section 528 of the BNS to quash an FIR, to prevent abuse of the process of any Court, or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. However, such powers are to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

The Supreme Court, in *State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal* (1992), laid down certain guidelines on the circumstances where a High Court can exercise its inherent powers. The first two guidelines under which an FIR can be quashed are relevant to this case. The first guideline says the inherent powers to quash an FIR can be exercised "where the allegations made in the FIR or the complaint, even if they are taken at face value and accepted in their entirety, do not prima facie constitute any offence or make out a case against the accused". As per the second guideline, an FIR can be quashed "where the allegations in the FIR and other material, if any, accompanying the FIR do not disclose a cognisable offence, justifying an investigation by police officers under Section 156(1) of the Code except under an order of a Magistrate within the purview of Section 155(2) of the Code." The Code refers to the erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code, and Section 155 pertains to a non-cognisable offence. Other situations include the allegations made in the FIR along with the evidence collected not disclosing the cognisable offence, the FIR disclosing only a non-cognisable offence, the allegations being absurd and inherently improbable, the offences with express legal bar given in the Code or the Act concerned, and criminal cases manifested with mala fide intentions.

In the case under consideration by the M.P. High Court, while referring to the links of the video of the Minister's speech, the FIR states that the "full order dated 14.05.2025 is enclosed". Thus, if the FIR is challenged for want of sufficient material disclosing commission of a cognisable offence, the enclosed order of the Court cannot be lost sight of. As per the settled law, the FIR can be quashed only if the Court finds the material deficit after considering the FIR and the enclosed material (the court order in this case) in its entirety.

Though it would have been prudent for the police to include relevant parts of the alleged speech which constitute offences mentioned in the FIR, the FIR if read in entirety, is not deficit in the required material. Therefore, the High Court's harsh comments against the police seem unwarranted and premature.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court's harsh comments against the police seem unwarranted and premature

A renewed OBC outreach in U.P.

All the political parties are focused on wooing the numerically largest segment

STATE OF PLAY

Mayank Kumar
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In Uttar Pradesh, political parties are focused on mobilising the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), which are estimated to comprise more than 40% of the State's population and consist of about 48 caste segments. This move comes against the backdrop of the Centre's announcement that caste enumeration will be part of the Census in 2027.

On June 14, the Congress began a month-long outreach campaign called Bhagidari Nyay Sammelan, with the aim of reaching out to the OBCs. The party has started holding conferences across the State to raise awareness about the declining employment opportunities for OBCs. It is also organising village-level 'chaupal' campaigns to sensitise people on the importance of a caste census and an economic survey. It plans to hold district-level marches on the need to increase the reservation cap beyond 50%. Congress leaders have said that they will raise caste-centric issues of various OBC segments, such as the Kurmis, Noniyas, Binds, Mauryas, Kushwahas, Rajbhars, Pals, Nishads, Nais, Mallahs, and Prajapatis. The party is confident of its OBC-centric approach in U.P. since Rahul Gandhi's recurrent pitch for a caste census during the party's campaign to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was moderately successful.

Similarly, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has started organising OBC cadre camps in various Assembly constituencies across the State in a bid to attract the OBCs, especially groups that are extremely

backward and which used to vote for the party along with Dalits in the 1990s and 2000s. The party is keen to remind OBC voters about the welfare measures launched for the segment by previous BSP governments under Mayawati. The reports of these cadre camps will be analysed at the party's State headquarters.

The focus on OBCs by the BSP, considered to be a Dalit-centric party, is evident from the party's choices for leadership: State president Vishwanath Pal, for instance, belongs to the Gadariya (OBC) community. In 1995 and 1997, Bhagwat Pal and Dayaram Pal, two OBC leaders, were at the helm of the party in the State and played a significant role in helping the BSP make inroads within OBC groups and dent the Mandal formula of the Samajwadi Party (SP).

The BSP today is a shell of its past. The party won just one seat in the 2022 Assembly polls and secured a vote share of just 12.8%. Given its downfall, it is keen to occupy the Opposition space through its OBC outreach and prevent the SP from making the State a bipolar political battlefield.

The main rivals on the U.P. political chessboard – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the SP – are also making attempts to garner the support of these social segments. SP president Akhilesh Yadav recently held meetings in Lucknow with social and political organisations of the Noniya and Rajbhar OBC groups. He promised them a slew of progressive measures if elected to power in the 2027 Assembly polls. Mr. Yadav also promised to build a statue of Maharaja Suheldev, considered an icon by the Rajbhar community, along the Gomti river in Lucknow. The SP has constantly emphasised that it is the party's PDA (Pichhda, Dalits and Alpsankhyak – meaning, backward castes, Dalits, and minority communities, respectively) plank and demand for a caste census that has pushed the BJP government to include caste enumeration in the 2027 Census.

The BJP, which has been saying that its decision to include caste enumeration at the national level shows the party's push for social justice and upliftment of the OBCs, has been giving a lion's share of its organisational posts to OBC leaders. In its district president list, announced recently, the BJP had 25 OBC presidents. Of them, five are Kurmis, two are Lodhs, two are Mauryas, and one each is from the Yadav, Kushwaha, Rajbhar, Pal, Saini, Kashyap and Vaishya communities. The Kurmis are numerically significant among the OBCs; they constitute roughly 4% of the State's population.

Last week, former minister and a prominent OBC face, Swami Prasad Maurya, launched a political front called Lok Morcha. This comprises nine small parties, led mostly by OBC leaders. The parties have coined the slogan, '*Jiski jitni sankha bhari, uski utni hissedari*' (representation according to population), which is an old cry of OBC-centred parties. Evidently, no party is leaving any stone unturned to woo the OBCs.

New Tatkal rules aimed at curbing bots and bulk bookings

As 60% of Tatkal tickets are bought in the first 10 minutes of the booking window, the new system aims to give genuine users a fighting chance

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishan

The recent changes to the Tatkal ticket booking system are significant and necessary. Under the new rules, OTP authentication using Aadhaar will be mandatory for all Tatkal bookings made online. Agents will be prevented from booking Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window. In addition, OTP authentication will be sent to the mobile number of the user while Tatkal tickets are being booked by agents or at counters.

Aadhaar-based OTP authentication could create further delays and uncertainty. However, the intent appears to be a course correction: to plug systemic loopholes exploited by bots and unauthorised agents, and to restore fairness in last-minute ticket booking.

The latest move must be viewed in the context of the rapid growth of online train ticketing. When the service was introduced in 2002-03, about 2 lakh tickets were booked online. In 2023-24, the number soared to 45.3 crore, accounting for nearly 83% of all tickets booked on the Indian Railways website **(Chart 1)**. The share of tickets booked through mobile devices has also sharply increased – from just 1% of online bookings in 2014-15 to over 50% by 2023-24.

While online booking has help reduce the long queues at reservation counters and requires nothing more than a mobile phone and Internet connection, it has also become a double-edged sword, especially in the context of Tatkal tickets. An internal analysis by the Indian Railways revealed that in the first five minutes of the Tatkal window, up to 50% of login attempts on the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website were made by bots. These bots can autofill details, bypass captchas, and secure tickets within seconds, even as genuine users struggle to manually enter their information.

An analysis by the Indian Railways shows just how competitive Tatkal bookings have become, too. For the AC class, around 5% of the available Tatkal tickets are booked in the first minute, 21% in the second, and another 36% over the next eight minutes. This means 62% of all AC Tatkal tickets are booked within the first 10 minutes of the booking window **(Chart 2A)**. For non-AC classes, the rush is even sharper – nearly 66.5% of Tatkal tickets are booked within the first 10 minutes **(Chart 2B)**.

In FY25, the Indian Railways detected an average of 83 lakh logins every day – a sizable share of them during Tatkal booking hours – by both individuals and bots. For instance, on March 21 and 22 last year, 1.85 lakh and 2.23 lakh tickets, respectively, were booked during the Tatkal windows of 10 a.m-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon – the highest single-day Tatkal bookings recorded that year. The scale of the challenge is staggering and the latest rules are aimed at least taking bots and bulk bookings out of the equation, giving individual users a fighting chance.

The Railways have already been taking steps to keep bots and unauthorised agents at bay. Between 2019 and 2022, over 17,000 fraudulent agents were arrested for illegally procuring tickets and selling them at a premium, with the highest number of arrests reported from the Western Railways **(Chart 3)**. In addition, the Railways have identified over 140 software tools that have been used to game the system. They have also deactivated more than 2.5 crore suspected user IDs linked to suspicious booking activity.

Tatkal is an important source of revenue for the Railways, with over 5% of the total revenue garnered from three sources – Flexi fare, Tatkal, and Premium Tatkal. **Chart 4** shows the amount earned by the Railways through these sources in ₹ crore.

Bots vs humans: Tatkal ticket race

The data for the charts were sourced from the Press Information Bureau, the IRCTC website, IRCTC's annual reports and the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha's Questions and Answers

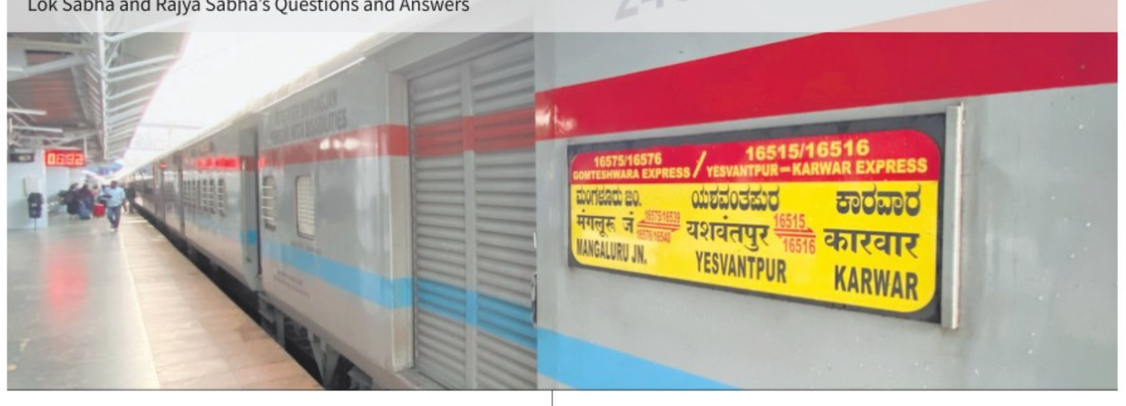


Chart 1: Number of tickets booked online in crores (right axis) and the share of online tickets out of all tickets booked (left axis)

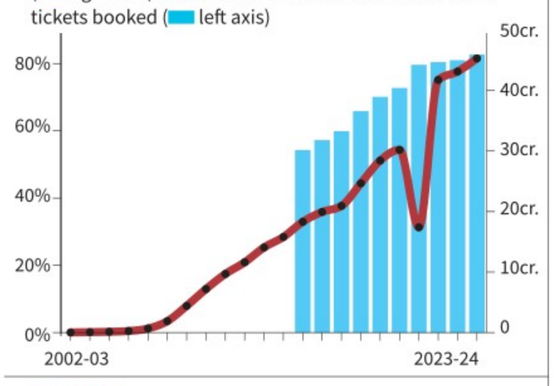


Chart 2A: The share (in %) of available AC Tatkal tickets booked across time periods

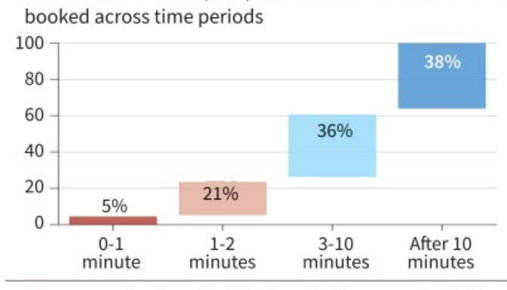


Chart 2B: The share (in %) of available non-AC Tatkal tickets booked across time periods

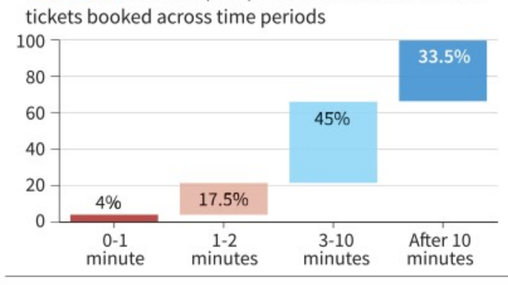


Chart 3: The Railway zone-wise split of the 17,000 fraudulent agents arrested between 2019 and 2022

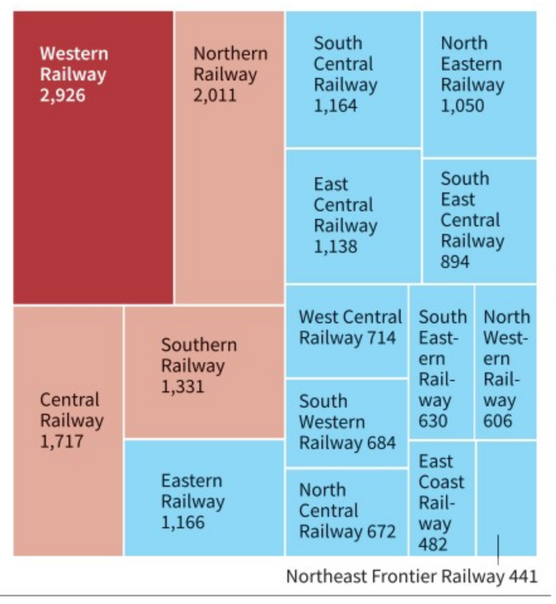
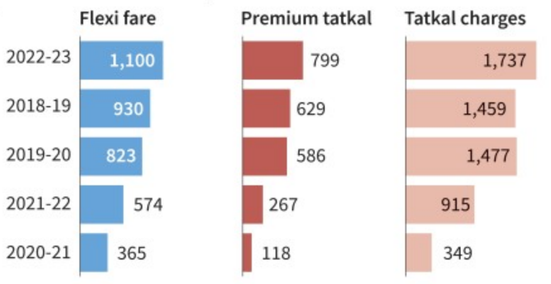


Chart 4: The amount earned by the Railways through these sources in ₹ crore each year



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1975

Israeli troops kill Arab guerillas

Tel Aviv, June 15: A four-man Arab guerilla death squad from Lebanon attacked the frontier settlement of Kfar Yuval to-day, seizing a house and holding people hostage inside, before Israeli troops killed them in a hail of gunfire, military sources said.

Two members of the family were killed and six others, including a seven-month-old baby, were wounded, an Army spokesman said.

The guerillas who attacked the co-operative settlement less than a mile south of the hilly frontier were killed by the storming troops, about 24 hours after they attacked.

The Arab marauders shot their way into the settlement at dawn, held an Israeli family at gunpoint and demanded that Israel release the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem and other Arab prisoners.

The Syrian-born Archbishop, Monsignor Hilarion Capucci, was jailed for 12 years in December for smuggling arms to terrorists inside Israel.

Troops then surrounded the village and stormed the house.

Formations of Israeli warplanes bombed a village and plantations in the Arkoub area of south Lebanon to-day, a Lebanese Defence Ministry communique said.

Arkoub is often referred to as Fatahland, home of the Palestine guerilla group.

The Israeli air strike came less than one hour after the report of the guerilla raid into the Israeli village.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1925

The Everest expedition

London, June 14: In an address at the Royal Geographical Society, Lord Ronaldshay referring to the Everest expedition, paid a very high tribute to the leadership of Bruce and Norton and also to the brilliance of the latter's despatches. He reiterated that the Everest climbers were not prepared to admit their defeat.

He said the prospect of putting the matter to the final test depended on the willingness of the Tibetan Government to permit another expedition rather than on the readiness and ability of the Committee to organise and despatch it.

From Page One

Helicopter crash kills 7 along Char Dham route

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami ordered an inquiry into the crash, vowing to take strict action against those found guilty.

"Only those pilots with long-term experience of flying in high-altitude Himalayan regions will be allowed to operate," Mr. Dhami said. The DGCA will also post officers to oversee the airworthiness, safety, and operations of all helicopter activity in the Kedarnath valley, and to review the State aviation authority's functioning.

Sunday's crash is the fifth helicopter accident in Uttarakhand over a six-week span. The officials said that *prima facie*, the accident looks like a case of Controlled Flight into Terrain (CFIT), with the helicopter reportedly airborne despite poor visibility and extensive clouds at the valley entry area.

The exact cause of the crash will be determined through a detailed investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

"Helicopter services to Char Dham will remain completely suspended until Monday. The experience of all helicopter operators and pilots in high-altitude Himalayan regions will be reviewed. Heli services will be resumed only after a comprehensive meeting with all operators," Mr. Dhami said. He also ordered a Command and Coordination Centre to be set up for better management and coordination of helicopter services.

Iran vows severe response to Israel

The U.S. President has repeatedly said Iran could end the war by agreeing to tough restrictions on its nuclear programme, which Iran says is for peaceful purposes but Western countries say could be used to make bombs.

The latest round of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the U.S., due to be held on Sunday, was scrapped after Tehran said it would not negotiate while under Israeli attack.

Iran has not given a full death toll but said 78 people were killed on Friday and scores more have died since, including in a single attack that killed 60 on Saturday, half of them children, in a 14-storey apartment block flattened in Tehran.

Israeli rescue teams on Sunday combed through rubble of residential buildings destroyed by Iranian missiles to look for survivors after at least 10 people, children among them, were killed, raising the two-day toll to 13

"Iran will pay a heavy price for the murder of civilians, women, and children," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said from a balcony overlooking blown-out apartments in the town of Bat Yam where six people were killed.

Meanwhile the Israeli military has warned Iranians living near weapons facilities to evacuate.

(With AFP inputs)

Axiom launch for June 19, says Minister

"As far as our understanding goes, there has been an optimum amount of mutual cooperation. As soon as the leakage was pointed out, both teams joined together and agreed to address that [the leakage]," the Minister said.

On Saturday, the ISRO said it its official channels that the liquid oxygen leak on the Falcon-9 had been "successfully resolved", and that it was looking to a "June 19th launch". Later in the day, however, it removed the specific reference to the date, modifying its post to say: "The earliest possible launch date for #Ax4 is being worked out."

On June 10, the ISRO had said on its website that it "recommended" on-site repairs or replacement and a "low temperature leak test" before the vehicle was cleared for launch. A media report claimed that ISRO had to insist on such a test.

The astronauts were originally scheduled to lift off on May 29, which was postponed to June 8, then June 10, and then June 11 , when SpaceX detected a liquid oxygen leak in the Falcon-9 rocket.

(With PTI inputs)

DNA profiling identifies 86 victims of AI crash

A total of 242 people – passengers and crew – were on board the London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner when it crashed minutes after take off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon. Only one passenger survived the accident. In addition to those on board, several people on the ground, including MBBS students in a college hostel, were killed in the incident.

Air India expressed gratitude to the Central and State governments for their support, as well as to the staff at Ahmedabad's Civil Hospital and Rajasthan Hospital for their tireless efforts. "Air India remains fully cooperative with the ongoing investigation led by the authorities and will continue to provide updates as verified information becomes available. Friends and Relatives Assistance Centres remain operational at Ahmedabad and Mumbai airports to support families seeking information," it said.

To support grieving families and streamline identification and logistics, authorities have deployed 230 teams across the country.

One killed as landslip hits Kedarnath walking route

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A person was killed and two sustained injuries after a landslip, triggered by incessant rainfall, hit the Junglechatti walking route of Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Sunday.

Pilgrims were barred from walking to the Kedarnath temple from Sonprayag until further notice.

Citing safety concerns amid the adverse weather, the Rudraprayag Police appealed to devotees coming to the Kedarnath temple to remain safe wherever they are. "If possible, find accommodation and stay put till the weather gets better," the police said through their social media handles.

The police added that security was being provided to devotees. They also appealed to pilgrims planning the Kedarnath yatra to check weather forecasts and travel advisories before making their journey.

District disaster management officials said only pilgrims returning from Kedarnath temple were allowed to proceed towards Sonprayag. "Those going uphill were stopped," the officials added.

The meteorological department has issued a yellow alert for Rudraprayag and nearby areas for the rest of the week.

Indian students, pilgrims stuck in Iran raise alarm

Iranian airspace is shut due to the conflict with Israel, and sources say evacuation by ships from southern Iran is being considered; there are 10,000 Indians in Iran, including 6,000 students

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

As Israel continued air strikes in Iran, thousands of Indians stuck in various Iranian cities have requested that the two sides declare a pause in fighting so that the Indian government can evacuate them through the airports in Iran.

The Embassy of India in Tehran on Sunday released emergency contact numbers and started a Telegram group to help Indians in Iran connect with the Indian authorities so that their safety could be ensured.

Official sources said there are about 10,000 Indians in Iran, including 6,000 students in various seminaries in the holy city of Qom and other Shia centres of learning. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday took up the issue with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and urged him to ensure the safety of Indian students in Iran. Later he said, "The Honorable Minister assured me that MEA is in close contact with their counterparts in Iran and will take all necessary steps to safeguard all Indian students in Iran."

Conflict zone: Smoke and fire rise over an oil refinery in Tehran, Iran capital, on Sunday after it was hit in an overnight Israeli strike. AFP

The Hindu has learnt from sources in Qom that several groups of Shia pilgrims from India, especially from Lucknow, who had travelled to Najaf and Karbala in Iraq and reached Qom have been stuck for the past few days since Israel started its bombing.

Metro as shelter

"Government of India should ask Israel and Iran to suspend the fight for some days so that we can be evacuated from Qom," said an Indian pilgrim on condition of anonymity, noting that the Indian Embassy is in contact with most clusters of Indians across Iran but the shutdown of the airports and lack of flights to India pose the biggest obstacles.

Israel has targeted the Mehrabad international airport near Tehran, while the Ben Gurion airport in Israel's Tel Aviv has been shut down in anticipation of Iranian attacks. Indian sources said that Iranian authorities have opened the Tehran Metro Rail network to be used as safety shelters in case of further intensification of fighting.

An official source indicated that evacuation by air is not possible as the airspace has been shut down and therefore the option of evacuation by ships from southern Iran is being considered.

Helpline numbers

The Embassy of India in Iran on Sunday issued fresh emergency WhatsApp numbers - +98 90101 44557, +98 90159 93320, and +91 80868 71709 - for Indians stuck in Iran in the prevailing circumstances. Separate numbers were also issued for those in the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas (+98 91776 99036) and Zahedan (+98 93963 56649).

Advisories not enough, begin evacuation efforts: Cong.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday claimed that more than 1,500 Indian students are in a state of uncertainty in Iran, and asked the Ministry of External Affairs to move beyond passive advisories to immediately establish a coordinated evacuation mechanism. The call came after Indians in Iran were on Sunday asked not to panic, exercise due caution and maintain contact with the Embassy of India in Tehran through its social media accounts.

Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged that while Indian students in Iran are calling for help, the government remains largely unresponsive. "With flights suspended, airspace over Tehran closed, and Internet access disrupted, more than 1,500 Indian students are left in a state of uncertainty – with no information about evacuation or safe zones," Mr. Khera said in a post on X. The Indian Embassy has issued a generic advisory, he added.

He saidd this was not the first time Indian citizens had been left pleading for help during foreign crises. "Whether it was Sudan, Ukraine, or now Iran, Modi's government has turned evacuations into propaganda opportunities," he alleged.

'Pushed' into Bangladesh by BSF, three West Bengal men return after State's efforts

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Three West Bengal residents working in Mumbai were allegedly pushed into Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF) earlier this week. They returned to Cooch Behar district in the State on Sunday.

Minajul Sheikh, a resident of Beldanga in Murshidabad district, told *The Hindu* that his brother Minarul Sheikh was picked up from Mumbai where he was working and subsequently forced into Bangladesh. "We got a call from one of the men in the group saying Minarul is in Bangladesh," he said.

The three workers – Minarul Sheikh and Nizamuddin Sheikh from Murshidabad and Mostafa Kamal Sheikh from Purba Bardhaman – also sent a video message to their relatives, in which they plead to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other representatives of the State to ensure their return to India.

The three repatriated workers at the Mekhliganj police station. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Unfortunate, illegal'

After the West Bengal government raised the issue, the workers were repatriated to India through the Mekhliganj border in Bangladesh on Sunday afternoon. Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member and chairperson of West Bengal Migrant Welfare Board Samirul Islam said when the workers were picked up by the police in Mumbai, all necessary documents were provided by the State government. "What has happened is very unfortunate and illegal. These are citizens of India and cannot be illegally pushed into Bangladesh in such a manner," Mr. Islam said.

Over the past several months, India has been "pushing back" undocumented Bangladeshi migrants detained across the country through the eastern border. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expressed concern to India about the "push back" of individuals across the border, particularly undocumented migrants.

However, there is no official word about the "push back" from the BSF.

India-origin man dies days after Australian police 'knelt on' neck

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

A 42-year-old man of Indian origin died days after an Australian police officer allegedly knelt on his neck during an attempted arrest, a media report said on Sunday.

Gaurav Kundi from Modbury North in Adelaide died surrounded by his family on Thursday after he was hospitalised for an "unrecoverable" brain injury, *7News Australia* reported.

The police attempted to arrest Kundi on Payneham Road at Royston Park, alleging that there was an "altercation" between him and a woman.

The video footage of the incident showed Kundi being forced by the police, while he and his wife, Amritpal Kaur, loudly protested. "I've done nothing wrong," Mr. Kundi shouted while Ms. Kaur filmed the incident and cried out that the police were acting unfairly.

Mr. Kundi was rushed to a hospital after his condition declined, and he "became unresponsive" during the attempted arrest.

'He was just drunk'

The police said Mr. Kundi violently resisted the arrest and was intoxicated. They said the couple were allegedly arguing, and a passing patrol reportedly mistook the incident for domestic violence. However, Ms. Kaur said her husband was simply drunk and loud, not violent.

The media have compared the arrest to the George Floyd case in the U.S. in 2020. Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee and the weight of his body against the 46-year-old Black American man's neck.

Five arrested in Assam for trying to 'incite tension'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police in western Assam's Goalpara district arrested five persons for allegedly throwing beef near a Kali temple on Saturday night.

Goalpara adjoins Dhubri district, where a head of cow was found on two successive nights at the same spot near a Hanuman temple. The police have arrested 38 people in connection with the Dhubri incident.

"Lakhipur police of Goalpara district arrested the individuals for allegedly throwing beef near a temple in a deliberate attempt to incite communal tension post Eid-ul-Zuha," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X, sharing the names of the accused.

The Chief Minister said a case had been registered and strict action was being taken.

India must stand with international law: Ukraine Minister

Suhasini Haidar
OSLO

Ukraine is ready for direct summit-level talks with Russia, said a senior Minister here, adding that the role of India and other countries should be to facilitate talks rather than seek to mediate at this point.

In an interview to *The Hindu* ahead of the G-7 summit outreach sessions in Kananaskis, Canada, on June 17, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are both special invitees, Ukraine's First Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya said that he couldn't confirm if the two leaders would hold bilateral talks, but hoped that India would choose to support "international law and the UN charter", when it comes to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"India is the largest democracy on the world's political map... And if India wants to continue to build up its image as a democratic state, then India has only one choice, of being on the side of the international law and UN Charter," Mr. Kyslytsya said when asked about Ukraine's expectations from India. Asked about an Indian role in mediating the conflict given its ties with both countries, Mr. Kyslytsya said that in the present scenario, Ukraine would welcome any country that facilitates talks like the Istanbul process where two rounds of Russia-Ukraine talks have been held.

Sergiy Kyslytsya

Sergiy Kyslytsya says Ukraine would welcome any country that facilitates talks

"India has a history of centuries and traditions in the area of peaceful resolutions. So it's for India to say if it is ready and willing to play a role," he said, expressing gratitude for India's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine thus far. He also said that India-Ukraine trade could be built in a number of areas from food to high-tech advanced weaponry, especially drone technology that has been enhanced since the Russian invasion in 2022.

No change in stance

Despite requests from Ukraine during Mr. Modi's visit to Kyiv in August last year, and another Modi-Zelenskyy meeting in September, New Delhi has not thus far changed its position on the Russia-Ukraine war, or calls to stop importing Russian oil under Western sanctions. In February, India abstained from another resolution at the UN General Assembly calling for a ceasefire, and its imports of Russian oil reached record highs of 1.8 million barrels last month.

Asked this week about India's position, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in an interview in Brussels to news portal *Euractiv* that India has strong ties with both Russia and Ukraine, but that "every country, naturally, considers its own experience, history and interests".

Pointing to Western inaction over Pakistan's occupation of Kashmir since 1947, Mr. Jaishankar said that "if [Western] countries - who were evasive or reticent then - now say 'let's have a great conversation about international principles', I think I'm justified in asking them to reflect on their own past," he said, when pressed about why India does not criticise Russia for being an "aggressor" in Ukraine.

'Ceasefire first'

Mr. Kyslytsya said Mr. Zelenskyy will declare clearly at the G-7 summit outreach that Ukraine is prepared for summit-level talks between Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy, although it is unlikely Russia would accept that immediately.

"The Russians have a different logic, that Ukraine must surrender first, and then after we surrender, they will commit to a summit meeting and a ceasefire. Our logic is the reverse. We say, let's have the ceasefire that will contribute to a conducive environment for the meeting of the presidents," he said.

British Airways flight returns to London after 'snag'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A London-Chennai flight of British Airways operated by a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft returned to the airport of origin mid-flight due to a "technical issue", the airline said.

Lufthansa's Frankfurt-Hyderabad flight operated on a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner also returned to the airport of origin mid-flight following a bomb threat.

"The aircraft returned to Heathrow as a standard precaution after reports of a technical issue," the British Airways said in a press statement.

"The flight landed safely with crew and customers disembarking as they normally would, and our teams are working hard to get their journeys back on track as soon as possible," the statement added.

As per the data available with Flightradar24, flight BA35 took off from Heathrow Airport at 1.16 p.m. after a 36-minute delay.

Data from the website shows that the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner circled over the Strait of Dover multiple times before returning to the Heathrow Airport.

In a separate incident, a Hyderabad-bound Lufthansa aircraft from Frankfurt returned to its base mid-flight following a bomb threat, prompting a full-scale security response.

International agencies reach Gujarat to assist in crash probe

Downloading and analysing black box could take four or five days; representatives from U.S. and U.K. agencies arrive in Ahmedabad; UN norms state that a country probing an accident should produce a preliminary report within 30 days

Jagriti Chandra
AHMEDABAD

Close scrutiny: Investigators after visiting the Air India plane crash site in Ahmedabad on Sunday. AP

Representatives of several international investigating agencies have reached Ahmedabad to assist India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) with the investigation into last week's Air India Boeing 787 crash that killed 241 aboard.

They include representatives from the top investigating agency of the U.S. for transport accidents, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); the civil aviation watchdog of the U.S., the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); and the U.K.'s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), multiple sources said. A team of the aircraft manufacturer Boeing is also expected to participate in the investigation.

Among those killed in the crash were 53 Britons, seven Portuguese nationals and one Canadian citizen. The remaining 181 were Indians, including 12 crew members.

The Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra, visited the crash site and the BJ Medical College where the bodies had been brought to. He discussed the ongoing relief, rescue, and investigation efforts during a high-level review meeting with senior officials from the Central and State governments, the AAIB, and the Airports Authority of India.

The AAIB retrieved the digital flight data recorder (DFDR) a day after the June 12 crash from the accident site, the B.J. Medical College hostel campus. The next steps involve "milking" the data from the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and DFDR, which together make up the black box. Milking implies downloading of raw data, which could take up to 25 hours for the DFDR and two hours for the CVR. After this, the data will be analysed to interpret flight parameters such as speed and angle of attack. The two exercises could take up to four to five days, said a former senior investigator of the AAIB.

During the air crash involving an Air India Express aircraft at the Calicut International Airport in August 2020, the black box was sent to the U.S. because the AAIB did not have its own facility.

In April 2025, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu inaugurated a DFDR & CVR Laboratory at the AAIB headquarters in New Delhi. A questionnaire sent to the Civil Aviation Ministry on Sunday seeking details of where this data would be downloaded, among others, remained unanswered. The former official quoted above said the AAIB did not have a Boeing 787 "type trained" investigator until at least 18 months ago.

He felt that such an expertise could only come from Air India, which is the only airline to fly this type of aircraft in the country, but deputing its personnel may imply a conflict of interest. He said that the AAIB may have to look overseas for such expertise.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is an office attached to the Civil Aviation Ministry. It investigates accidents and serious incidents involving aircraft weighing over 2,250 kg.

According to standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN aviation safety watchdog, the state probing an accident or incident is expected to produce a preliminary report within 30 days.

"A publicly available final report is encouraged to be produced by the state in charge of the investigation within 12 months of the accident, says Annex 13 of the ICAO's Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), which provides standards for accident investigations. As per Annex 13, the state of occurrence is responsible for the investigation and controls the release of all information regarding the probe.

The NTSB had earlier said in a press statement on X that as per international protocols under the ICAO, all information on the investigation will be provided by the Government of India.

The government has also constituted a separate committee under the Chairmanship of the Home Secretary, which will recommend standard operating procedures to prevent air accidents, as well as guidelines for emergency response involving multiple stakeholders.

Amit Shah reviews preparation for upcoming Census

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The notification to conduct the Census will be published in the official Gazette on Monday

A day before the notification to conduct the Census will be published in the official Gazette, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reviewed the preparation for the exercise.

The Union Home Ministry said the notification to conduct the Census would be published in the official Gazette on Monday.

Around 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, and 1.3 lakh Census functionaries would be deployed for the exercise, to be conducted in two phases. The Census will conclude by March 1, 2027.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said the Census would be conducted through digital means using mobile applications where provision of self-enumeration would also be made available to the people.

Data security

"Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure data security at the time of collection, transmission and storage," it said.

The Census would be conducted in two phases – House Listing Operation (HLO) when the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected, and Population Enumeration (PE), which would capture the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household. In Census, caste enumeration would also be done, the Ministry said.

The review meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan and other senior officials.

On June 4, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the commencement of the Census, adding that it would have a reference date of 12 a.m. on March 1, 2027.

'Redraw constituencies'

As per the constitutional mandate, the first Census after 2026 can be used as the basis to redraw Lok Sabha constituencies. The next general election is expected to be held in 2029.

The last census was held in 2011 and the subsequent exercise, scheduled to take place in 2021, was delayed indefinitely, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 30, the Union Cabinet had decided to include caste enumeration as part of the next census exercise.

Auto driver steps up during Ahmedabad's darkest hours, crafts coffins for the victims

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Man of the moment: Nilesh Vaghela, who has been working round-the-clock, has delivered 80 coffins so far. VIJAY SONEJI

Sawdust coats every surface of Nilesh Vaghela's home in Hari Nagar Society, where the 47-year-old auto-rickshaw driver has transformed into an unlikely hero during Ahmedabad's darkest hour.

Since receiving an urgent call from Air India hours after Thursday's crash, Mr. Vaghela has been working round-the-clock, crafting coffins for victims with the precision of a seasoned carpenter.

"I've delivered 80 coffins so far, with 20 more to go by today evening," Mr. Vaghela told *The Hindu*, his bloodshot eyes betraying working 21-hour shifts for three straight days.

Mr. Vaghela, who normally earns his living ferrying passengers, has barely slept since the disaster, surviving on short naps between measuring, cutting, and assembling the simple wooden boxes that will cradle the dead.

"I'm cutting the wood and assembling the boxes and attending to the never-ending phone calls from the hospital to supply the coffins immediately – all at once. I can't rest until I complete the deliveries," he said.

'Service to humanity'

When he first got a call requesting coffins for all victims, Mr. Vaghela – who occasionally built coffins for extra income – had to calculate how many he could realistically produce. "I told them 100 in two days was all I could promise at first," he recalled. "More than business, I consider this as a *seva* (service) to humanity," Mr. Vaghela said.

He has sought help from his neighbours to store the coffins in their buildings, as his own home does not have enough space. "Many ask me why I make coffins despite being a Hindu... I tell them it's not about religion or anything else – it's about humanity. Now, everyone has come forward to help me store the boxes," he said.

Each coffin carved by Mr. Vaghela carries no name – only the silence of lives abruptly lost, and the stories that will never be told.

"I'm making more than 30 boxes a day. I don't have any workers – this isn't my regular job. And anyway, which coffin maker would keep hundreds of boxes ready in advance? This is such a tragic incident. How could anyone foresee a day like this?" he added.

I can never step onto a plane, says teen who became key witness after recording crash

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Caught on video: Excited to see aircraft, the 17-year-old had begun recording it to show his friends before the tragedy struck. FILE PHOTO

For 17-year-old Parth (name changed), what began as an exciting first day at his father's new accommodation turned into a traumatic experience soon. Barely an hour after reaching Saraswati Nagar – a densely populated locality just two kilometres from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad – the teenager became an unwitting eyewitness to one of India's worst aviation disasters in recent history.

Excited to see an aircraft at such a close distance, Parth, a Class 12 student, had pulled out his phone to record the sight and show it to his friends back in his native village. But within seconds, his camera captured the horrifying moment when Air India flight AI171, bound for London, plummeted from the sky and crashed in a fiery explosion. The episode has left him deeply shaken. "I can never step onto a plane," he said.

The teenager, a native of Shamlaji taluk in Aravalli district of Gujarat, arrived in Ahmedabad around noon on June 12. His father, who had retired from the Army, had recently started working as a security guard with the Ahmedabad Metro. Just a day earlier, he had rented a room in a small building situated between the airport and the crash site.

"I had arrived at my father's place around 12.30 p.m. and went up to the terrace after hearing that planes often flew past. I was curious, so I started filming a video of one flying unusually low – it was the closest I had ever seen a plane. At first, I thought it was preparing to land at the far end of the airport. But within moments, it crashed and exploded into flames right in front of me. The whole scene was horrifying," he recounted to the media.

None detained: police

The video he recorded quickly went viral, prompting the Ahmedabad Crime Branch to record his statement on Saturday as a witness. Later, the police released a brief clarification after initial reports suggested that the boy had been detained. "He came with his father to give a statement as a witness. He was then sent away with his father. No arrests or detentions have been made," the police said.

(The boy's identity has been withheld as he is a minor)

NIA files chargesheet against 3 in Punjab grenade attack case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted three persons in connection with the 2024 case related to a grenade attack at a police post in SBS Nagar district of Punjab.

The attack was allegedly planned by the banned terror outfit Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF).

Among those arraigned are Yugpreet Singh aka Yuvi Nihung; Jaskaran Singh aka Shah; and Harjot Singh aka Jot Hundal, all residents of Rahon village in SBS Nagar.

The National Investigation Agency has invoked various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Explosive Substances Act.

The probe agency has also launched investigations against KZF chief and designated "individual terrorist" Ranjit Singh aka Neeta, the outfit's member operative Jagjit Singh Lahiri aka Jagga (currently in the United Kingdom), and other unidentified terror operatives.

Tipra Motha seeks intervention to 'push back' illegal immigrants

Press Trust of India
AGARTALA

The BJP ally Tipra Motha Party sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention for sending back illegal Bangladeshi immigrants living in Tripura. Senior leader and Forest Minister Animesh Debbarma said that following the directives of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, States like Gujarat, Assam and Meghalaya took swift action. "Illegal migrants were detained, flown to various border areas and pushed back to their country of origin. This has not been done in Tripura as was expected," he said.

With this demand, a 15-member delegation of the TMP, led by Mr. Debbarma, met Governor N Indrasena Reddy on Saturday and handed over a memorandum, seeking the PM's intervention. He said it urged Mr. Modi to send a task force to the State.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259.
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in. E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Plastic Baskets** to TNMSC Ltd for one year from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of **Plastic Baskets** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	e-015/M(P)/ BASKET/ TNMSC/2025, Dated. 16.06.2025	16.06.2025 at 4.00 PM to 07.07.2025 upto 4.00 PM	23.06.2025 at 10.00 AM to 07.07.2025 upto 4.00 PM	07.07.2025 at 4.30 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/3021/Tender/2025 — **Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o CE (NPP-H&GP), Vth Floor, investment building, DC-03, Lal Kothi Scheme, Jaipur

E-Tender Notice NO.- 04(RVU2526SLOB00568)

Online tenders are invited by Setting up of 1000 MW/2000 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Systems (2 Hours/2 Cycles per day) under tariff Based Global Competitive Bidding in Rajasthan with Viability Gap Funding Support under "BOO" model. Tender details are available on websites **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, (for e-tender) **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/4308 — RVUN/PR-4212 — Chief Engineer (NPP-H&GP)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
KARAIKAL

No:01/PMGSY-III/LAD-KKL/2025-26 Karaikal, the 12.06.2025

PMGSY-III 2024-25 ROAD WORKS (4 Nos)
PRESS NOTICE FOR-TENDER

1. For details, visit **www.pmgsytenderspy.nic.in**
2. E-bids are invited by the Deputy Director, Local Administration Department, Karaikal for the Construction & Maintenance of PMGSY-III Rural roads, Culverts and Retaining wall works, under two cover system in Karaikal district.
3. The bid documents can be downloaded at free of cost from **www.pmgsytenderspy.nic.in**
4. Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:

(i) Availability of NIT for downloading of Bid document from **04:00 PM** on **16/06/2025** to **04:30 PM** on **07/07/2025.**

(ii) Closing time for submission of e-Tender : **07/07/2025 at 05:30 PM**

(iii) Date & Time of Opening of tender : **08/07/2025 at 10:30 AM**

(Part-1 Technical bid document)

(iv) Pre-bid meeting :**26/06/2025 at 10:00 PM**

"Financial bid opening date & time will be intimated Later"

Sd/-
Deputy Director
Local Administration Department
Karaikal

No, 146/Dip/KKL/ADVT/2025

INBRIEF

Gas leak at Assam ONGC well continues for fourth day

Leakage of gas continued for the fourth day at an ONGC well in Assam's Sivasagar district, where 70 families have been shifted to a relief camp, officials said on Sunday. A team led by ONGC director (technology and field services) Vikram Saxena on Saturday took over the operational control, they said. The well has not caught fire yet, and no one is injured in the incident, an official told *PTI*. A senior official of the district administration said that around 1,500 people have been affected by the incident. "They are getting the smell of gas and are not able to light their stoves or burn anything. We are providing them with cooked food and constantly monitoring the situation," she said. PTI

BSF jawan kills senior at camp in Bengal; probe ordered

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan who allegedly shot dead his senior at a camp in West Bengal's Murshidabad district was apprehended, officials said on Sunday. The incident took place around 10.30 p.m. on Saturday at the BSF camp in Dhuliyan, they said. Constable Shivam Kumar Mishra fatally shot his senior, Head Constable Ratan Singh Shekhawat, using his service rifle after a heated argument. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the BSF. The two troopers were stationed in a BSF unit that was deployed in the area following the recent communal clashes in Murshidabad, they said. PTI

India will continue efforts to strengthen ties with Cyprus: PM

Both nations to hold delegation-level talks today; Modi says visit will add significant momentum to bilateral trade and investment relations

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will move ahead with its plans to strengthen ties with Cyprus, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Nicosia where he arrived Sunday evening.

Mr. Modi was greeted by Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides at the airport. He met the resident Indian community in the island nation, which has been supportive of India's position on the Kashmir issue and has most recently expressed solidarity with India after the terror attack in Pahalgam in April.

"This visit will add significant momentum to India-Cyprus relations, especially in areas such as trade, investment and more," Mr. Modi said on arrival.

"I thank the Indian community for the love. India will continue its efforts to strengthen its ties with Cyprus in the future," said Mr. Modi after meeting the Indian community.

Closer ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides at the airport on Sunday. ANI

Following the welcome ceremony and the meeting with the resident Indians, Mr. Modi attended a Cyprus-India Roundtable Discussion organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The visit, which is significant for India as it sends a message to neighbouring Turkey, coincided with the Israel-Iran conflict.

As the airspaces over Iran, Lebanon and Israel were closed owing to the conflict, Mr. Modi's official aircraft aircraft flew over the Arabian Sea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Egypt before arriving at Cyprus.

The ceremonial welcome for Mr. Modi is scheduled for Monday when the two leaderships will sit for restricted talks as well as for delegation-level talks that will be followed by press statements.

After conclusion of engagements at Cyprus, the Prime Minister will leave for Calgary, Canada to participate in the G-7 summit and then visit Croatia.

'PM has time for foreign trips, but not for Manipur'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his three-nation tour, the Congress on Sunday said he had all the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm – '3 Es' – for such visits and asked could he not summon up a 4th E – empathy – for going to Manipur "where the people's suffering continues unabated".

"The Prime Minister leaves for Cyprus, Canada and Croatia this morning. There was a time when he boasted about his knowledge of algebra by spouting the (a+b)^2 equation as applicable to India and Canada. But things went horribly wrong thereafter," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"When it appeared that Canada was dragging its feet on the invite to India, Mr. Modi's drum beaters proclaimed that he would not go even if invited. But like always, he stands exposed," Mr. Ramesh said.

The Opposition party said this was Mr. Modi's 35th trip abroad since May 2023 and it was "pathetic of the Prime Minister to treat Manipur in this awful manner".

Raj Bhavan, NC govt. spar over job for kin of terror attack victim

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The offer of government jobs to the family of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the local man killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, resulted in discord between the Raj Bhavan and the Chief Minister's Office on Sunday.

The two sides bickered after Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha visited the victim's family on Saturday in Hapatnar, Anantnag, and handed over the appointment letter to his wife, Gulnaz Akhter, "on compassionate grounds".

National Conference (NC) MLA Tanvir Sadiq took exception to the L-G's move to hand over the appointment letter.

"I thank L-G *sahab* for handing over the job order that was already prepared by the Fisheries Department. This reflects the maturity and responsibility shown by the elected government. We did not allow egos to come in the way," Mr. Sadiq said.

To Mr. Sadiq's statement, the Raj Bhavan clarified that the appointment was made by the L-G by exercising the discretionary powers conferred under Clause 2A of the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 with a relaxation in Ms. Akhter's educational qualification.

J&K L-G Manoj Sinha gives an appointment letter to Gulnaz Akhter on Saturday. ANI

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also promised a job to the victim's family. However, on May 1, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board handed over an appointment letter to the brother of Shah.

"On one hand, the L-G says he only controls the police, and on the other hand, he tweets about providing a job to Adil's widow. This highlights the problem of the dual power system in Jammu and Kashmir, which can only be resolved through the restoration of Statehood," Mr. Sadiq said.

Cash Plus model pushes up early breastfeeding rate, dietary diversity among Rajasthan women

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The recently released report card on Rajasthan's Cash Plus model – India's first State-led pilot project to converge Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) with Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) for improving maternal and child nutrition – indicates a 49% rise in early breastfeeding (now reaching 90% of newborns), 44% of women being more receptive to home-based counselling, 49% improvement in dietary diversity among pregnant women, and 54% more women using cash specifically for nutrition.

The State government scheme augments the national Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women for their first living child. The PMMVY scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, aims to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and their infants by offering cash incentives

Improving lives: The scheme scaled up from a district-wise pilot to a State-wide initiative has benefited over 3.3 million women. AFP

Rajasthan carried out the assessment of its enhanced programme through a three-year field study starting 2021.

"Rajasthan is the first to combine cash support for pregnant women with social and behaviour change interventions (SBCI), such as counselling, home visits, and sessions on nutrition and health. It also includes second-time mothers. This model is already showing a real impact on diet, early registration, and check-ups," said Om Prakash Bunkar, Director, Women and Child Development Department, Rajasthan.

The scheme was started at the end of 2020 in five districts: Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, and Baran, as a pilot project. It was scaled up to cover the entire State in 2022. The announced budget for the scaled-up version of the scheme is ₹210 crore, targeting around 3.5 lakh second-time pregnant women in the State per year, as per the budget announcement.

Through the programme, pregnant and lactating women are offered home-based and group nutrition counselling on maternal and child health and nutrition. The programme also includes community and social engagements to drive local behaviour change, and the use of digital media to target younger audiences and male household members.

Challenges faced

While Rajasthan is focused on reducing mortality rates and improving overall well-being, the challenges it faces includes – incomplete data collection (maternal deaths), disparities in care with the large part of the densely populated State being rural, tackling poverty and lack of education cover.

To date, the initiative has directly benefited over 3.3 million women. As per the survey report, 80% of women reported improved affordability and access to nutritious food, attributing this to greater household awareness and counselling support.

Speaking about how the scheme has helped her, Raju Kumari from rural Rajasthan shared: "During pregnancy, the anganwadi worker registered me and ensured I got vaccinations and checkups. My anemia was detected early, and I was given iron treatment and nutrition advice. I had a normal delivery at a government hospital, and my baby weighed over 3 kg."

British Navy's fighter jet makes emergency landing at airport in Kerala capital

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An F-35 Lightning II fighter jet of the British Navy made an emergency landing at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala on Saturday night.

The stealth aircraft, a part of the Royal Navy's Queen Elizabeth Class carriers, is believed to have taken off from a British aircraft carrier operating in the Indian Ocean region.

According to sources, the pilot issued a distress signal on Saturday night following low fuel. Soon after the request, the airport authorities declared a full-scale emergency, and the jet landed safely without any incident.

The British authorities later changed the crew of jet. They brought in another pilot, who has been allowed to stay at the airside of the airport.

Troubleshooting mode: The British F-35 fighter jet seen parked at the Thiruvananthapuram airport on Sunday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The flight radar details show that the aircraft issued an emergency transponder code, SQUAWK 7700, for a few seconds around 9 p.m. off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram. The authorities have not disclosed details of the origin and destination of the flight.

The jet is expected to take off once the Defence Ministry issues clearance.

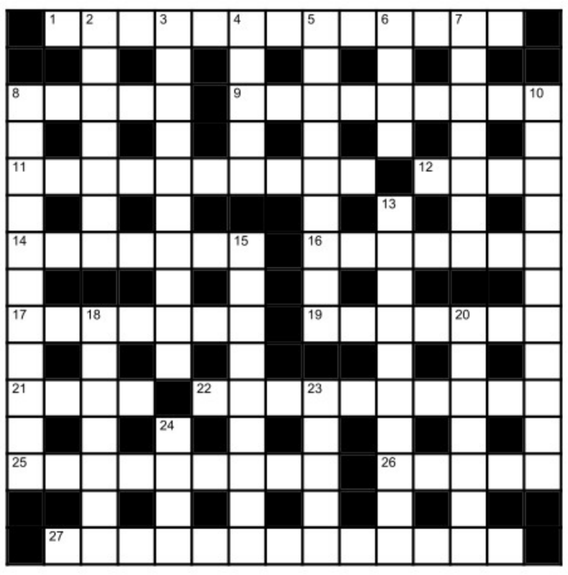
In a statement, a defence spokesperson said: "It's a normal occurrence of diversion by the F-35. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is fully aware and has facilitated the aircraft for flight safety reasons. All assistance is being given, and IAF is in coordination with all agencies."

TH CROSSWORD + 14512

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1/26 What organist wanting to play loudly will do to make every effort (4,3,3,3,5)
8 Mushroom caps in stack on island (5)
9 Planning stylish finale to entertain theatregoers at premiere (9)
11 Dear wife enthralled by knocking back pegs, getting a little raunchy in excitement (10)
12 Ostracise star consuming heroin (4)
14 Trainees played tennis after taking a little rest (7)
16 Fish in quiz about zodiac sign (7)
17 Visit bumbling stooge on base (2,2,3)
19 Mysterious scream by model in film (7)
21 Bird crushed by rickshaw, killed (4)
22 Nuts start a riot in Italian eateries (10)
25 Most parched, needs a little nightcap - shaken, not stirred (9)
26 See 1
27 Determination of ace cracking internet scam (13)

Down

2 Endlessly intoxicated guest tottering around is most disgusting (7)
3 Buried soldier at ground close to outpost (4,2,4)
4 Odour in estuary containing liquid waste (5)
5 Dilapidated tract in a cold polar region (9)
6 Give large tip (4)
7 Euphoric after consuming ecstasy, husband cavorts heartily! Ah, well (5-2)
8 Gasps in stadium at inauguration, excited by sizzling tennis stroke (7,4)
10 Experts in heredity, say, backing extraordinary scientist (11)
13 Pal dancing with my spouse endlessly! Somehow, feign ignorance (4,6)
15 Most elegant nurses start to explain gynaecological procedure (5,4)
18 Revolting drunkard having fight with daughter is concerning (7)
20 Unsure about most costly cocked hat (7)
23 Three tenors entertaining upper-class society at centre with all performing together (5)
24 Enjoy match (4)

SUDOKU

	7	8			4			
					2	9		
		9	5					6
	9				5		1	7
7			4	8	9			3
3	5		7				2	
2					6	5		
		1	2					
			8			3	6	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6552 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

S	A	V	E	O	U	R		
R	E	S	C	U	E	M	I	S
T	R	I	A	L	M	C	N	B
C	A	F	D	O	G	O	O	D
E	R	U	P	L	I	F	T	L
M	O	O	L	I	D	I	P	P
E	R	I	D	A	R	E	S	A
Y	N	L	T	M	B	A	T	I
S	T	E	R	E	V	E	R	S
E	C	I	E	R	C	E	S	T
E	E	M	E	D	D	R	Y	E
R	S	T	B	I	E	P	E	G
A	T	E	A	U	T	A	P	W
A	T	E	R	T	U	K	I	A
P	C	L	I	B	R	E	T	T
O	R	E	E	C	H	O	C	O
U	N	T	R	Y				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	8	1	9	2	7	5	4
2	5	1	7	3	4	9	8	6
7	4	9	6	8	5	2	3	1
9	1	3	5	4	7	6	2	8
4	2	7	8	6	3	1	9	5
5	8	6	9	2	1	4	7	3
8	9	4	3	7	6	5	1	2
6	3	5	2	1	9	8	4	7
1	7	2	4	5	8	3	6	9

FAITH

Krishna, the world's guru

Adi Sankara says, "The one with curly hair, whose face looks like the full moon, who is adorned with great-looking earrings, I bow to you, Lord Krishna, the guru of the world." Lord Narayana manifested on earth as Rama and Krishna with a distinct purpose. He was born as Rama in Ayodhya, and led by example, a life of virtue despite being assailed by the vicissitudes of life. He chose to be born as Krishna for the purpose of establishing righteousness. In Chapter IV, verse 8 of the Bhagavad Gita, He says, "*Partitharanaya sadhunam, vinasaya cha dhushkrutham, dharma samsthapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge*. (For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked, and for the establishment of righteousness, I am born in every age)."

He foretells His avatar, and says "I will be born in Mathura but I will go elsewhere, live with the Yadavas and return to destroy Kamsa. He even chooses His parents, Devaki and Vasudeva, and to facilitate their marriage, He enters the mind of Kamsa and makes him conduct the wedding and drive his wedded sister's chariot.

He had another purpose in His manifestation as Krishna. He wanted to establish His status as the guru. In order to do so, one has to have a sishya and Arjuna was the ideal one, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan. His Gita upadesam resulted in His being hailed as Gitacharyan, in Triplicane Parthasarathy temple. Krishna says, in Chapter IV, verse 7 of the Bhagavad Gita, "*Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavatibharata*. (Whenever there is a decline in righteousness and an increase in unrighteousness, I will manifest, Oh Arjuna)."

Europe beckons but are you covered?

Meet Kapadia

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." – Saint Augustine

For Indian travellers, few chapters are as captivating as Europe. The continent continues to be a dream destination for many Indians. This year alone, Indian travel to Schengen countries surged 18.95% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025.

Rising healthcare costs, frequent flight disruptions and an uptick in trip cancellations are prompting Indian travellers to rethink how they insure journeys. Increasingly, high-cover travel insurance has become an essential tool for safeguarding one's European experience. With 62% of travellers now opting for $2,50,000 or more in coverage and seniors choosing $5,00,000+ protection, this shift marks a growing awareness of the need for comprehensive financial protection while exploring Europe.

Huge medical costs

A common misconception is Europe's renowned healthcare systems are free for everyone. They aren't. While residents benefit from state-supported healthcare, tourists do not. Without insurance, a hospital visit can quickly turn into a financial nightmare. Serious medical cases can result in six-figure hospital bills. For example, a traveller hospitalised in London with a brain infection faced a staggering $6 lakh bill fully covered only because he had robust travel insurance. Given the rising costs of healthcare, Indian travellers are choosing higher cover offering better medical and emergency cover. This is especially true of senior citizens who may need extensive medical care during travel.

Schengen visa

It is mandatory to have travel cover for Schengen visa. The basic norm is €30,000 of medical cover but this is far from adequate for real-world risks. A majority of Indian travellers going to Europe are picking $2,50,000+ cover and seniors $5,00,000+. This shift highlights the growing awareness around the true costs of medical emergencies, trip disruptions, and unforeseen events abroad.

A high-cover travel policy ensures in the event of a medical emergency, you are covered not just for treatment but also for emergency evacuation and medical repatriation to India if required. It safeguards your finances through trip cancellation or interruption cover, reimbursing pre-paid expenditure if unforeseen circumstances force you to cut trip short. It also compensates for lost or delayed baggage. Also, it covers flight delays and missed connections. Personal liability protection is another critical component, offering coverage if you inadvertently cause damage to property or injury to another person.

Visa rejections/ smarter add-ons

The growing rate of Schengen visa rejections has also fuelled demand for smart insurance add-ons. In 2023, Indian applicants faced a 15.70% rejection rate, with significant financial losses due to non-refundable visa fee. To manage this risk, about 20% of travellers now opt for a Visa Fee Refund rider in policies.

Buy early

Buying travel insurance in advance is key. Data show 76% of Indian travellers now buying policies 45-50 days before departure. This ensures travelers can include trip cancellation and visa fee refund benefits.

Don't cut corners

Some travellers opt for basic/ minimal coverage. But this can be devastating. Comprehensive, high-cover offers peace of mind that outweighs small additional cost. In the context of a costly Europe trip, the difference between a basic and a high-cover policy is often a few thousand rupees, but can save you lakhs in a crisis.

(The writer is head, travel insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Passively managed funds and portfolio allocation

Passive funds may be part of your core or satellite component; these funds are available for various asset classes viz. equity, debt (bonds) and commodities

INVESTMENT IDEA

Joydeep Sen

The crux of your investment portfolio is allocation to various investment assets like equity, bonds, gold, etc. Within these are sub assets e.g. large cap/small cap stocks, long maturity/ short maturity bonds, etc.

There is another approach to portfolio allocation. There would be a core part of portfolio, and a satellite component. The core component is not to be disturbed unless there is a drastic change in the market or in the fund.

The satellite component is for taking tactical calls based on prevailing market situation. It is meant for taking advantage of extant market situations, and therefore the investment tenure can be short term. The more defensive the portfolio, the higher should be the core component as satellite is for taking higher risks.

> There would be a core part of portfolio, and a satellite component. The core component is for the keeps; not to be disturbed unless there is a drastic change in the market or in the fund

> The satellite component is for taking tactical calls based on prevailing market situation; the satellite component is meant for taking advantage of market situations

Passive funds

The concept of passive funds is the fund manager does not take any decision on the portfolio. S/he does not take any decision on what to buy or when to sell. The fund manager's job is to follow the underlying index. As an example, if the underlying index is Nifty50 or Sensex, then the fund manager will mimic that. S/he will buy the same stocks as in Nifty/ Sensex, and maintain the same ratio in portfolio allocation. The returns, which simply follow the underlying index, will be similar as of the index. The returns will be marginally lower as there would be some recurring expenses in the fund and tracking error.

Passive funds are available for various asset classes viz. equity, debt (bonds) and commodities. One passive idea or strategy can be followed by multiple Asset Management Companies (AMCs). Example, Nifty50- or Sensex-based passive funds.

Two formats

Passive funds are offered in two formats. One is Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) where fund units are listed on the exchange i.e. NSE/BSE. Investors can buy/sell ETF units during trading hours. There is no purchase or redemption with the AMC for ETF units. The other format is Index Fund format, where you can buy or redeem with the AMC, like any other open-ended fund.

The advantage of Index Fund format is liquidity; when you want money, just make the redemption request. In ETFs, the advantage is you can do multiple buy/sell trades a day. In Index Funds, you can buy/redeem only once a day, at end-of-day NAV.

Active vs. passive

There is a debate between active and passive funds, which one is better? In active funds, expenses are higher. The expectation is, these funds would generate returns higher than relevant benchmark, which is referred to as alpha.

If the active fund is not beating the benchmark, then why should the investor bear higher expenses? The investor would rather settle for a passive fund. The passive fund would never beat the benchmark, but give similar returns i.e. not underperform grossly.

You should allocate to both as per your objectives, suitability and performance of the funds.

Should passives be part of core portfolio or satellite? There is a tendency to have passives in the satellite component as the core portfolio is expected to accumulate wealth over a long period of time via compounding effect. Since the fund manager needs a long time to outperform the benchmark, it should not be disturbed.

In the satellite portion, since you are taking relatively higher risk, you minimise the possibility of the fund underperforming the benchmark. Having said that, there is a shift, with a good reason, to have passives in the core component of your portfolio.

The portfolio allocation compounding and accumulating wealth over a long period of time should be defensive. That is, the risk of your exposures underperforming the benchmark should be low, as you do not want to go wrong on that part. The satellite portion is meant to bear the risk. If your call/the fund manager's call goes right, you earn superior returns.

Conclusion

Data shows over 50% of active funds not beating the benchmark. The outcome varies on whether it considers direct plan (relatively lower expense ratio) or regular plan (relatively higher expense ratio). Hence, go for active funds where there is scope for the fund manager to outperform e.g. small cap or thematic funds. In large cap funds, the scope is limited as the universe is only 100 stocks. Where you want to settle for market or near-to-index returns, passives are better which can be core. Where you want higher returns, beating the index, you can allocate in the satellite component.

(The writer is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Bond fund or FD? how to choose

THINKINVESTOR

If you prefer stable income products for bond allocation, then you must consider bank deposits; But if you do not mind downside risk, then bond funds should be your choice for investments

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Your investment decisions involve trade-offs. Should you aim at higher returns with high downside risk? Or should you settle for low risk and lower returns? In this article, we discuss one such decision you face: whether to invest in bank fixed deposits or bond funds for your bond allocation in your core portfolio.

Downside risk

Bonds funds, whether they invest only in government bonds or government and corporate bonds, expose your investments to market risk. This is because investment and redemption prices are at net asset value (NAV) per unit, which is based on market value of the portfolio. The market value of the bond fluctuates based on interest rate expectations. Bond prices are inversely related to interest rates. That is, bond prices go up when interest rate comes down, and bond prices decline when interest rates go up.

Interest rates have a floor – they do not typically go below the inflation level in a country. There is, however, no cap to how much interest rate can rise. Of course, the RBI will take steps to control inflation and interest rates from spiralling. That said, the upside in interest rate is greater than the downside. Because interest rate is inversely related to bond prices, this translates into: the downside in bond prices is greater than the upside.

So, for allocation to bonds as an asset class in core portfolio, should you prefer bond funds or bank deposits? The answer depends on the differential return and risk between the two investment products. Bond funds can offer about 150 basis points more return, assuming an expected pre-tax return of 8.5% on bond funds and 7% on bank deposits. But what if the bond market declines and bond funds give up gains? Also, what if the fund you invest in underperforms its benchmark index and generates lower returns?

Conclusion

Gains on your investments in bond funds are taxed at your marginal tax rate regardless of the holding period, as is your interest income on bank deposits. So, the choice between the two products comes down to only your risk-return preferences. If you prefer stable income products for bond allocation, then you must consider bank deposits. Bank deposits also offer diversification in the source of returns – capital appreciation from equity funds and interest income from deposits. But if you do not mind downside risk, then bond funds should be your choice.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.50	7.25	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.80	7.60	7.50	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.75	5.00	6.25	6.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	8.05	8.20
slice Small Finance Bank	9.00	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.40	7.90	8.40	8.00
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.05	7.90	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	8.60	7.25	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.25	8.25	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	7.75	7.75	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.05	7.05	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.75	7.10	7.25	7.25
Federal Bank	7.00	6.60	6.90	6.90
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.00	6.25	6.25	6.00
IndusInd Bank	7.25	7.00	7.00	6.75
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.60
Karnataka Bank	7.00	6.80	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.05	7.50	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	6.70	6.50	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.30	7.25	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.00	6.70	6.70	6.55
Bank of India	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.15	6.25	6.30	6.25
Canara Bank	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.70	6.75	6.50
Indian Bank	6.90	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	7.10	6.90	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	6.90	6.70	6.70	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.25	6.30	6.00	6.50
State Bank of India	6.85	6.50	6.55	6.30
Union Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.00-9.20	8.00-9.20	8.00-9.20
Bank of Baroda	8.00-9.65	8.00-9.65	8.00-9.90
Punjab National Bank	7.55-9.35	7.50-9.25	7.50-9.25
Bank of India	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.60
Canara Bank	8.00-10.75	7.95-10.75	7.90-10.65
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.90-8.90	7.90-8.90	7.90-8.90
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	7.85-9.45	7.85-9.45
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.65 #	8.65 #	8.65 #
ICICI Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Axis Bank	8.75-12.80	8.75-12.80	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.62-10.86	8.62-10.86	8.62-10.86
Federal Bank	9.15 #	9.15 #	9.15 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.50-9.75	8.50-9.75	8.50-9.75
Bandhan Bank	8.66-15.00	8.66-12.83	8.66-12.83
RBL Bank	9.00 #	9.00 #	9.00 #
CSB Bank	9.61-11.34	9.61-11.34	9.61-11.34
HDFC Bank	8.45 #	8.45 #	8.45 #
City Union Bank	10.05-15.45	9.85-15.45	9.85-13.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75#	8.75#	8.75#
Aditya Birla Capital	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
ICICI Home Finance	9.30 #	9.30 #	9.30 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#Onwards Rates as on June 11 Source:Paisabazaar.com

PARIS

Macron visits Greenland to signal European resolve with Denmark

AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron visited Greenland on Sunday to show European solidarity with Denmark after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to seize the island. Mr. Macron's visit signals European resolve to protect Greenland's sovereignty and discuss Arctic security, and EU partnerships. REUTERS

CAIRO

Houthis target Israel with ballistic missiles in coordination with Iran

AFP

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis on Sunday announced coordinated missile attacks on Israel with Iran, targeting Jaffa in central Israel. This marks the first public admission of joint operations with Tehran. The strikes follow ongoing missile exchanges between Israel and Iran amid escalating regional conflict. REUTERS

PHNOM PENH

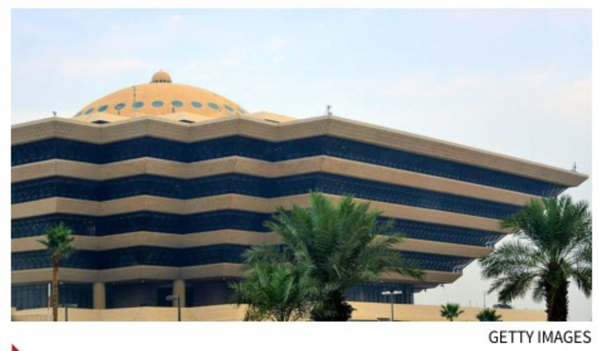
Cambodia turns to World Court over Thailand border disputes

REUTERS

Cambodia said on Sunday it had formally asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to resolve its border disputes with Thailand after a deadly skirmish on May 28. Cambodia seeks ICJ rulings on four contested areas, while Thailand prefers bilateral talks and rejects the court's jurisdiction. REUTERS

DUBAI

Saudi Arabia executes a journalist after seven years behind bars



GETTY IMAGES

Saudi Arabia on Saturday executed journalist Turki Al-Jasser, arrested in 2018 and convicted on 'terrorism and treason charges'. Al-Jasser was known for criticising corruption and advocating reform. His execution highlights ongoing repression of dissent under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. AP

If Iran attacks, 'full strength' of U.S. military will 'come down': Trump

Iranian Foreign Minister states Tehran is open to a nuclear deal that prevents it from acquiring atomic weapons but will not abandon its nuclear rights; Trump says a deal between Iran and Israel could be easily achieved to end the 'bloody conflict'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON/TEHRAN

Clear stance: Donald Trump reiterated on Sunday that the United States 'had nothing to do with the attack on Iran'. REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump warned Iran on Sunday that it would experience "the full strength" of the U.S. military if it attacks the United States, reiterating that Washington "had nothing to do" with Israel's strikes on Tehran's nuclear and intelligence facilities.

Israel's operation, which began early Friday, has targeted Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing dozens of people including top Army commanders and atomic scientists, according to Tehran.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to hit "every target of the ayatollah regime", and Iran has retaliated with a deadly barrage of missiles.

While Mr. Trump had said he was aware of the Israeli operation before it started, he reiterated Sunday morning on his Truth Social platform that the United States "had nothing to do with the attack on Iran, tonight".

"If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before," he said in a post.

He added that "we can easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel, and end this bloody conflict!!!"

On Friday, the U.S. President urged Tehran to make a deal or face "even more brutal" attacks by Israel.

During his first term, a landmark nuclear accord with Iran – negotiated under former President Barack Obama – was torpedoed in 2018 when Mr. Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States and reimposed sanctions.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that Tehran is open to a nuclear deal that would ensure it cannot acquire atomic weapons, but will not agree to abandon its "rights".

"We are prepared for any agreement aimed at ensuring Iran does not pursue nuclear weapons," Mr. Araghchi told foreign diplomats, adding that Tehran would not accept any deal that "deprives Iran of its nuclear rights".

'Trump vetoed Israeli plan to kill Iran's Supreme Leader'

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. officials say that the Israelis 'had an opportunity' to kill the top Iranian leader, but Trump waved them off the plan. AFP

President Donald Trump vetoed an Israeli plan in recent days to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, two U.S. officials said on Sunday.

"Have the Iranians killed an American yet? No. Until they do we're not even talking about going after the political leadership," said one of the sources, a senior U.S. administration official.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said top U.S. officials have been in constant communications with Israeli officials in the days since Israel launched a massive attack on Iran in a bid to halt its nuclear program.

They said the Israelis reported that they had an opportunity to kill the top Iranian leader, but Mr. Trump waved them off the plan.

The officials would not say whether Mr. Trump himself delivered the message. But Mr. Trump has been in frequent communications with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

When asked about the report, Mr. Netanyahu, in an interview on Sunday with *Fox News Channel's* "Special Report With Bret Baier," said: "There's so many false reports of conversations that never happened, and I'm not going to get into that."

Mr. Trump has been holding out hope for a resumption of U.S.-Iranian negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Talks that had been scheduled for Sunday were cancelled due to the strikes.

Russia hits refinery supplying fuel to Ukrainian forces

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia has claimed Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as its own and controls most of its territories

Russian forces carried out an overnight strike on the Kremenchuk oil refinery that supplies fuel to Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

The Ministry's statement said that missiles had been fired at the refinery in Ukraine's Poltava region from both sea and air and that strike drones were also used in what it said had been a successful attack.

There was no immediate Ukrainian comment on the Russian statement.

Russia has claimed Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as its own and controls most of its two regions, Donetsk and Luhansk. Ukraine is fighting to stop Russia taking control of the rest of Donbas and has said it plans to retake territory it has lost through a combination of force and diplomacy.

The Russian Defence Ministry said separately that its forces had taken control of the village of Malynivka in the Donetsk region, known in Russia as Ulyanovka.

China holds patrols in South China Sea, warns Philippines

Reuters
BEIJING

China's military held joint sea and air patrols in the South China Sea on Saturday, a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army's Southern Theatre Command said.

Spokesperson Tian Junli said in a statement on Sunday that the Philippines has courted countries outside the region to organise "joint patrols" and "raised security risks" in the region.

"The theatre command forces remain on high alert, resolutely safeguarding China's national sovereignty and maritime rights," he said, adding that "all military activities that seek to stir up trouble in the South China Sea or create flashpoints are fully under control".

The Philippine embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

The Philippines and the United States conducted joint maritime drills in the South China Sea for a seventh time earlier this month.

Tensions have continued to run high between China and the Philippines over territorial disputes in the South China Sea, a conduit for more than $3 trillion of annual ship-borne commerce.

G-7 leaders meet in Canada amid rising U.S. policy and trade tensions

Reuters
BANFF

Friendly talks: Keir Starmer attends a bilateral meeting with Mark Carney before the start of G-7 summit in Ottawa on Sunday. REUTERS

Group of Seven leaders gather in the Canadian Rockies starting on Sunday amid growing splits with the United States over foreign policy and trade, with host Canada striving to avoid clashes with President Donald Trump.

While Prime Minister Mark Carney says his priorities are strengthening peace and security, building critical mineral supply chains and creating jobs, issues such as U.S. tariffs and the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine are also expected to feature heavily.

U.S. ally Israel launched a barrage of strikes across Iran on Thursday, a blow to Mr. Trump's diplomatic efforts to prevent such an attack.

The summit will take place in the mountain resort of Kananaskis, some 90 km west of Calgary.

The last time Canada played host, in 2018, Mr. Trump left the summit before denouncing then-Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as "very dishonest and weak" and instructing the U.S. delegation to withdraw its approval of the final communique.

Conditional stability

"This will be a successful meeting if Donald Trump doesn't have an eruption that disrupts the entire gathering. Anything above and beyond that is gravy," said University of Ottawa international affairs professor Roland Paris, who was foreign policy adviser to Mr. Trudeau.

Mr. Trump has often mused about annexing Canada and arrives at a time when Mr. Carney is threatening reprisals if Washington does not lift tariffs on steel and aluminium.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, Bengaluru
4th Floor, BSNL, Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

(See Sec.25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961)

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
TRC No. 211/2017(DRC 9945) in O.A No. 368/2014

Between
City Union Bank Ltd, Koramanagala Branch ... Certificate Holder Bank
- And -
Mr. Mahesh and Another ... Certificate Debtors/CDRs

CDRs :
2. **Mr. Mahesh,** S/o. Maregowda, No.45, Honnaghatta Village, Kodigehalli Post, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore.
3. **Mrs. Annapurna,** W/o. Mahesh, No.45, Honnaghatta Village, Kodigehalli Post, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore. **... Certificate Debtors**

Whereas in execution of certificate TRC No.211/2017(DRC 9945) in O.A. No. 368/2014 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore the undersigned has ordered the Sale of the under mentioned Properties.

You are hereby informed that the day on or after the Fifteenth Day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY AS PER RC

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural properties 01-06 are situated in Honnaghatta Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, The Property No 7 is situated at Maragondanahalli Village Bangalore Rural District Owned by Mr. Mahesh (CD No.1/Defendant No.1)

No.	Sy. No.	Area	North by	West by	East by	South by
1	7/4	1A04G	Chenna Krishnappa Kempanna	Byre Gowda Kempanna	Srinivas	Mahesh Chennamma
2	7/5	OA35G	Own Property	Venkatesh Prasad	Mahesh	Najegowda
3	6/5	OA03G	Narayanamma	Own Property	Road	Shivappa
4	7/2A	OA27G	Venkatesh	Krishnappa	Venkatesh	Thimme

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY AS PER RC

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building Rural Property bearing Khaneshumari No 27/49 situated at Honnaghatta Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, Owned by Mr. Mahesh (CD/Defendant No.1) Bangalore Rural District Measuring : East to West : 45", North to South : 42", in Total 1,890 sq. ft. situated at and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Nanje Goeda's House, North by : Road, South by : Appaiyanna's House.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **28-05-2025.**

RECOVERY OFFICER-I, DRT-II, Bengaluru

Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vigilance
2nd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560003. Ph: 080-23365562, 23440467
E-mail: apccfvigil@gmail.com

No. E.Comp. No.: 1800159 **Date: 12.06.2025**
File No: KFD/VIGI/WRLS/6/2025

Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal only)

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance), Bengaluru invites tender in two cover system for supply of wireless related equipments and spares for establishment of wireless communication in Karnataka Forest Department through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

1) Tender Reference No.: **KFD/2025-26/IND0256. 2)** Date and Time for Pre-bid meeting: **20.06.2025, 11.30 hrs. 3)** Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **30.06.2025, 16.00 hrs. 4)** Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **02.07.2025, 11.30 hrs. 5)** Tentative Date & Time of opening of Commercial bid: **04.07.2025, 11.30 hrs. 6)** Venue of pre-bid meeting, opening of tenders & address for communication: **Above Address**
Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents by visiting the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Vigilance) & Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/JA/1235/2025-26

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Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	(WWM-STP) K&T Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) K&T/AE/184/2025-26 Dt: 09/06/2025(4th Call)	Rs.15,57,504/- / Rs.38,938/-	23-06-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	24-06-2025 at 4.05 p.m.
2.		BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) K&T/AE/186/2025-26 Dt: 09/06/2025(4th Call)	Rs.9,88,427/- / Rs.12,355/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP) K&T Valley.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3.	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ TO/253/2025-26 Dt: 13.06.2025(2nd Call)	Rs.48,99,453/- / Rs.98,000/-	23-06-2025 upto 5.00 p.m.	24-06-2025 after 5.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North)-1.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO1237/25-26

ATTITUDE MATTERS

Gambhir stresses on the mindset he requires from the team: Gill

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Gautam bhai is very determined and committed. And he's also clear with his communication, what he wants from the players and what kind of mindset he would want the players to have. Gautam *bhai* focuses more on the kind of attitude or the mindset that he requires from the team or the players — Shubman Gill told *Skysports*.

NO PRECONCEIVED NOTION

Workload will decide whether Bumrah plays a Test or not: Gill

FILE PHOTO

Shubman Gill will be put to the test when he has to decide on the workload of Jasprit Bumrah. "It's more based on match to match and see how much workload there has been on him. That's what we are trying to look at. You need to see how much workload he had in a particular match," Gill said.

HARD YARDS

Bowlers focusing on volume of overs in intra-squad game: Kuldeep

X@BCCI

Kuldeep Yadav talked about the objectives of the intra-squad game between India and India-A. "Volume is very important for a bowler. We have played a lot of T20 cricket in the last five months. Pacers are told to bowl at least 15-20 overs for the Test match build-up. Same for spinners, the more they bowl, the better for them".

TOKEN OF TRUST

Captain Gill knows how to lead and is ready for the job: Kuldeep

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Shubman (Gill) knows how to lead. He has worked with a lot of captains, especially Rohit *bhai*, and learned from them. What I have seen so far is that he is very motivated. He is focusing on lifting the spirit of the team. He is ready for the job — Kuldeep Yadav, India's left-arm wrist spinner.

Szocs leads from the front as U Mumba clinches maiden title

It gains control of the final once Bardet bounces back after conceding the opening game to Patriots' captain Jha; Sreeja suffers her first loss of the campaign; Abhinandh takes a game off senior opponent Jeet to close out the tie

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Special feeling: U Mumba players savour their triumph. VIJAY SONEJI

U Mumba TT didn't have much time to recover after the thrilling semifinal on Saturday night. The schedule proved to be quite gruelling for the team.

Still, U Mumba overcame all the challenges to lay its hands on the coveted Ultimate Table Tennis trophy for the first time by defeating Jaipur Patriots 8-4 in the summit clash on Sunday.

With captain Bernadette Szocs leading from the front and riding on an all-round performance, U Mumba went on to take control once Lilian Bardet bounced back after conceding the opening game to Patriots' captain Kanak Jha. The convincing win meant U Mumba was richer by ₹60 lakh, with Patriots getting ₹40 lakh for the runner-up spot.

The semifinalists – Dempo Goa Challengers and Dabang Delhi TT – received a cheque for ₹17.50 lakh each.

Despite Jha being the overwhelming favourite to put Patriots ahead, Bardet gained control and his audacious winners forced the former into errors.

Once he put U Mumba in lead, Szocs doubled the advantage by avenging her league stage loss to Sreeja Akula, the only unbeaten player in the tournament.

Besides her heavy forehand topspins, it was world No. 12 Szocs' ability to block Sreeja's powerful forehand winners that turned out to be the difference.

At 4-2, Szocs remained in the arena with Akash Pal – India's best doubles player – joining her.

The duo eased past Jeet Chandra and Britt Eerland with a clean slate.

The highlight was Pal's side-spins from the back of the court and exceptional down-the-line winners he produced. It put U Mumba on the cusp of a triumph, leading 7-2. All that was required of P.B. Abhinandh or Yashaswini Ghorpade was to snatch a game off their senior opponents.

Calculated risks

While Jeet's calculated risks paved off in the first two games, Abhinandh – who wasted a 6-2 lead in the second – was exceptional with his serves in the third to close out the game and with it the tie.

It meant Yashaswini, the star of Saturday's great escape against Goa Challengers, entered the arena only to join in the celebrations.

The result:

U Mumba TT bt Jaipur Patriots 8-4 (Lilian Bardet bt Kanak Jha 4-11, 11-5, 11-7; Bernadette Szocs bt Sreeja Akula 11-9, 10-11, 11-5; Szocs & Akash Pal bt Britt Eerland & Jeet Chandra 11-6, 11-5, 11-5; P.B. Abhinandh lost to Jeet Chandra 5-11, 8-11, 11-8).

Harmeet supports wife Krittwika to the hilt after a heartbreaking loss

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Krittwika Sinha Roy had to win only one of the three games against Yashaswini Ghorpade to make it a hat-trick of Ultimate Table Tennis final appearance for Dempo Goa Challengers. After losing the first two games, she trailed 10-6 in the third.

Krittwika then staged a superb turnaround, supported by a couple of lucky net-calls, she saved four match-points and enforced the golden point. But when she hit a backhand topspin long, it resulted in agony and ecstasy – the two siblings in a sporting arena – being experienced at the EKA Arena on Saturday night.

While Yashaswini was surrounded by her U Mumba TT teammates and management for completing a thrilling comeback, Krittwika was inconsolable – with all her teammates trying to calm her down. It was at this very moment that Harmeet Desai had to switch from the role of Goa Challengers' captain into a caring husband to wipe her tears.

Minutes later, though, Harmeet, the pro, was on display.

"She is bound to feel it but I just had to remind her that had it not been for her contribution, we would have possibly not been in the semifinals. Despite not playing all the matches, she won us six crucial points, including the win over Fan Siqi," Harmeet said.

Krittwika's 0-3 loss in the fifth and final rubber was the exact reversal of the 3-0 scoreline that Harmeet started the semifinal with, by rolling over Frenchman Lilian Bardet.

The loss also ended Goa Challengers' quest of registering a hat-trick of UTT titles. But Harmeet reminded everyone that he and his teammates had every reason to hold their head high.

"I am extremely proud of the way we have fought and conquered various hurdles in UTT 2025," Harmeet said.

"After the auction, many would have thought ours wasn't the best team on paper. I am glad that we managed to prove everyone wrong and came within a point of being in another final. It wasn't to be, but we will come back stronger next year".

Mixed luck: Krittwika suffered a 0-3 loss in the semifinals after Harmeet started off proceedings with a victory by the same margin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT & VIJAY SONEJI

Talking tactics: Kuldeep says he has been discussing field placements with fellow tweaker Jadeja. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The wickets are looking good for spinners: Kuldeep

Press Trust of India
BECKENHAM

Now that one half of the seasoned spin duo is not part of the Indian Test team, Kuldeep Yadav is spending more time with Ravindra Jadeja on the tour of England, and the initial assessment of the pitches has made him more confident going into the series beginning on June 20.

"The wickets are looking good for spinners. It has been good for batting (in the intra-squad game here). There was moisture on the first day, and the seamers got help. As the game progressed, spinners got into the game," Kuldeep said on the sidelines of the intra-squad game.

Kuldeep misses R. Ashwin in the dressing room but the veteran's retirement has led to him spending more time with Jadeja.

"Playing alongside Jaddu *bhai* is an honour. Jaddu and Ash have been brilliant for India. I am now having regular chats with Jaddu *bhai* on how to bowl to certain batters. I am spending a lot of time with him both on and off the field. It helps me a lot tactic wise. We have been talking about field placements and he has given me clues as well".

I'd like to build a team culture where everyone is secure and happy: Gill

Press Trust of India
LONDON

India's new Test skipper Shubman Gill has set himself the goal of creating a team culture where every player is "secure and happy."

Not even in my dreams

"It was like, not even in my dreams, I thought I wanted to be the captain of the Indian cricket team.

"So, apart from all the silverware and trophies aside, I really would like to build a team culture where everyone is very secure and happy," Gill told *Skysports*.

"I know it can be a very difficult environment, especially with all the competition and the number of matches that we play, different squads coming in. But if I'm able to do that, I think that would be my goal."

"So, keeping a secure environment and making the player feel secure in his abilities and his capabilities I feel is one of the most important things that a leader has to do." Gill acknowledged that Rohit Sharma had laid out a clear path for him.

"It can seem like he is not aggressive, but Rohit is very aggressive in terms of his tactics. He is someone who is very clear with his communication prior to the matches, during the series and even after the series, what he wants from the players."

"The kind of environment Rohit *bhai* kept, even if he was swearing at you, you would not take it to heart. I think that's a great trait to have.

"This is a conversation that I've had with him a couple of times that ideally in the next 5, 10 or 15 years, where would we want the Indian cricket team culture to be?"

Proactiveness

"When I played under Virat, I think his proactiveness in Test matches with the field, or with his thinking, was something I liked." Gill noted.

The India skipper also provided a gist of his conversation with head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar.

"They just want me to be able to express myself as a leader. I mean, that's what they have told me, there are no expectations".

Head over heels: Gill would hope for some pyrotechnics from his deputy Pant during the English summer. X@BCCI

World records are for Duplantis to break

DIAMOND LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

Swedish double Olympic pole vault champion Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis bettered his existing world record by a centimetre on Sunday as he cleared 6.28 metres at the Stockholm Diamond League meet.

With victory already guaranteed, Duplantis broke the world record for the 12th time as he soared over the bar at the first attempt to improve on his 6.27m effort in February.

The 25-year-old ripped off his shirt in celebration and raced down the track in front of jubilant home spectators at the Olympic stadium built for the 1912 Games. It is the first time Duplantis has broken the record in Sweden, which he said after the Oslo event earlier in the week "would be an absolute dream".

Duplantis notched up his 37th victory in 41 Diamond League outings, finishing well ahead of Australia's Kurtis Marschall, who managed a best of 5.90m.

Making it a habit: Duplantis broke the pole vault world record for the 12th time. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Doubles title for Ankita and Alice in Portugal

Fourth seeds Ankita Raina and Alice Robbe beat the third seeds Hiromi Abe and Kanako Morisaki of Japan 1-6, 6-4, [10-8] in the doubles final of the $40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Guimaraes, Portugal. It was the third doubles title of the season and the 32nd of her career for the 32-year-old Ankita.

Ferrari wins third consecutive 24 Hours of Le Mans race

Former Formula One driver Robert Kubica took the chequered flag to give Ferrari a third consecutive win in the 24 Hours of Le Mans on Sunday. Kubica and his co-drivers Philip Hanson and Ye Yifei finished just ahead of Kevin Estre's Porsche with another Ferrari, with Antonio Giovinazzi at the wheel, crossing the line in third.

Inter Miami draws with with Al Ahly in Club WC opener

Lionel Messi and Inter Miami were held to a 0-0 draw by Egypt's Al Ahly in the opening game of the Club World Cup on Saturday. A crowd of 60,927 filled up Hard Rock Stadium in the Group A clash in the 32-team tournament and almost saw a late winner from Messi who saw a shot tipped onto the bar in stoppage time.

Diallo, Mertens reign at the 's-Hertogenbosch tournament

Canadian Gabriel Diallo won his maiden ATP title on Sunday with 7-5, 7-6(8) victory over Belgium's Zizou Bergs in the final of the grass-court event in 's-Hertogenbosch. Belgian Elise Mertens won the 10th WTA title of her career with a 6-3, 7-6(4) verdict over Romania's Elena-Gabriela Ruse in the women's final.

Fritz wins in Stuttgart

Taylor Fritz defeated Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6(0) in a rain-hit final in Stuttgart on Sunday to win his first ATP title of the season.

Burns running hot with one-stroke lead

The American trades lead all day with compatriot Spaun; the latter shares the second spot with Australian Scott after the third round

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
OAKMONT

Having the momentum: Burns fired a one-under par 69 to stand on four-under 206 after 54 holes. AP

Sam Burns outduelled fellow American J.J. Spaun down the stretch to grab a one-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US Open, setting the stage for a Sunday showdown at punishing Oakmont.

Burns fired a one-under par 69 to stand on four-under 206 after 54 holes with Australian Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, and Spaun sharing second on 207 and Norway's Viktor Hovland fourth on 209.

Burns, whose most recent win came at the 2023 WGC Match Play, and Spaun each found the right rough at 18 but Burns made the green and two-putted for par while Spaun found a bunker and two-putted for bogey.

"I didn't drive the ball as well as I would have liked, but when I got out of position I did a good job of getting myself back in the fairway," Burns said. "I was able to convert some of those and kept the momentum going. That was key to the round."

Spaun, whose only PGA Tour win came at the 2022 Texas Open, shot 69 and was happy despite the setback at 18.

"This is the best I've played in my career, for sure," Spaun said. "I'm just happy I'm still within shouting distance – 18 is just a tough hole if you're out of position. Bogeys happen at Oakmont."

Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, birdied three of the last six holes to fire a 67.

The 44-year-old can be the second-oldest US Open winner after American Hale Irwin, who was 45 when he won in 1990. Scott would also have the longest gap between Major titles.

Blasting out

Hovland blasted out of a bunker to set up a tap-in bogey at 17, but made bogey from a bunker at 18 to shoot 70.

The four will play in the last two pairings once again on Sunday in a tension-packed final round for the $4.3 million top prize.

Last-group playing partners Burns and Spaun traded the lead all day, a wild early exchange ending when Burns made a tap-in birdie at the fifth to match Spaun at three-under.

Burns sank a seven-foot birdie putt at the par-three 13th but fell back with a bogey at 16. Both birdied the 17th before the closing drama.

Mexico's Carlos Ortiz fired a 67 to stand fifth on level par 210, a stumble at the last hole dooming a bogey-free bid.

Ortiz made the cut for only the third time in 10 Majors and has never finished in a Major top 50.

The top scores: 206 - Sam Burns 72-65-69; 207 Adam Scott 70-70-67, J.J. Spaun 66-72-69; 209 - Viktor Hovland 71-68-70; 210 - Carlos Ortiz 71-72-67; 211 - Tyrrell Hatton 73-70-68, Thriston Lawrence 67-74-70; 212 - Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen 69-74-69; 213 - Robert Macintyre 70-74-69, Cameron Young 70-74-69.

India's losing streak in both sections of Pro League continues

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
ANTWERP

The Indian men's hockey team's wretched run in the European leg of the FIH Pro League continued as it endured a sixth defeat in a row, losing 3-2 to Australia, here Sunday.

India has already lost matches to Netherlands and Argentina even as all the games were close.

Former India captain Manpreet Singh, who played his 400th match on Sunday, failed to inspire his side despite taking the early lead.

In London, the women's team fought on equal terms against Australia but conceded a last-minute goal to lose 2-1. This was India's second consecutive defeat to Australia.

The men will next play Belgium on June 21 while the women go up against Argentina on Tuesday.

The results: Men: At Antwerp: Australia 3 (Tim Brand 4, Blake Govers 5, Cooper Burns 18) bt India 2 (Sanjay 3, Dilpreet Singh 36).
Women: At London: Australia 2 (Amy Lawton 37, Lexie Pickering 60) bt India 1 (Vaishnavi Phalke 3).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Shivaldo renews contract with BFC

Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh, 20, signed a new three-year deal with Bengaluru FC, the club announced on Sunday. The contract will run until the end of the 2027-28 campaign.

Shivaldo, who has been called up for India's U-23 squad for the friendlies against Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic in Dushanbe later this month, has made 15 appearances for BFC across two seasons. He made his U-23 India debut in 2023, scoring in his first outing against Malaysia.

Shivaldo's extension follows that of Naorem Roshan Singh and Lalremtluanga Fanai, who put pen to paper on long term deals at the club recently.

Kickstart FC triumphs

Kickstart FC beat Alchemy IFA 4-2 on penalties to win the KSFA U-21 Youth Premier League here on Sunday. The teams were tied 2-2 in regualtion time.

The result (final): Kickstart FC 2 (T. Premish 80, Khuraijam Rishikanta Singh 90+3) drew with Alchemy IFA 2 (Allen Dammu 58 (OG), Steve Mathew 88). Kickstart won 4-2 on penalties.

Tanishka wins WTT Youth Contender gold

Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav won the under-15 gold at the WTT Youth Contender tournament held in Tashkent recently. Tanishka beat Uzbekistan's Adelina Khasanova 11-3, 7-11, 11-8, 13-11 in the final.

Tanishka with her big prize.

Celebration time: The victorious Kickstart FC team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Satwik, Sakshya emerge champions

M. Satwik and Sakshya Santhosh emerged the U-13 boys' and girls' singles champions respectively in the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament held at Match Point V.V. Puram.

The results: Boys: U-13: M. Satwik bt M. Siddhanth 12-10, 11-13, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8.

In the thick of things: Shivaldo has made 15 appearances for BFC across two seasons. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Champions all: The winners of the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hopes: Arnav Mithun bt Sharvil Karambelkar 11-4, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9.
Girls: U-13: Sakshya Santhosh bt Mihika R. Udupa 11-7, 11-6, 11-4.
Hopes: Sakshya Santhosh bt Nandhana Bandi 11-4, 11-5, 11-8.
Non-Medallists Singles: K.S. Sai Prashant bt Ganesh Hiremath 11-6, 9-11, 12-10, 11-7.

LIVE TELECAST

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Club World Cup: DAZN, 7.30 a.m. (Monday), 12.30 a.m., 3.30 a.m., 6.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

Maria. AFP

Qualifier Maria completes fairytale run

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Tatjana Maria completed her fairytale run at Queen's Club as the German qualifier beat American Amanda Anisimova 6-3, 6-4 in Sunday's final to become the oldest winner of a WTA 500 event.

The 37-year-old's victory secured the fourth singles title of her career and her first since 2023 on clay in Bogota.

Experienced Matthai sweeps top spot in four categories

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Philippos Matthai brought into play all his vast experience to win outright in four categories in the Vamcy Merla Channai Gravel Fest, which doubled up as the second round of Octane Pits FMSCI Indian National Autocross Championship 2025 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Sunday.

Matthai, driving his INRC 2 Polo car, blitzed quality fields in the premier INAC 1 and INAC 2 categories in both of which he won the Open and 2000 classes.

Reflecting on his performance, Matthai said: "We achieved what we had set out to do. The track was a bit tricky in the early part, with water puddles in some of the corners after overnight rains.

Podium finishers: The winners in various races Sundeep, Matthai, Salman, Gowtham and Shivani.

The results: INAC 1: Unrestricted Open: 1. Philippos Matthai (01min, 38.880secs); 2. Syed Salman (01:39.627); 3. Arnav Pratap Singh (01:42.572).

Up to 2000cc: 1. Matthai (01:38.950); 2. Arnav Pratap (01:43.786); 3. Chetan Shivram (01:48.132).

INAC 2: Open: Matthai (01:39.249); 2. Salman (01:40.525); 3. Chetan (01.42.883).

Up to 2000cc: 1. Matthai (01:40.192); 2. Arnav Pratap (01:41.873); 3. Vaibhav Marathe (01:41.882).

Up to 1650cc: 1. Salman (01:41.434); 2. Arnav Pratap (01:42.253); 3. Vaibhav (01:42.811).

Up to 1450cc: 1. Salman (01:51.693); 2. C.P. Dhanush (02:01.521); 3. N.S. Anusha (02:25.406).

INAC 3: Open: 1. C.P. Gowtham (01:55.470); 2. Tarushi Vikram (01:58.763); 3. Ishan Ray Chowdhury (01:59.159).

Ladies: 1. Shivani Pruthvi (01:52.271); 2. Nivetha Jessica (02:06.899); 3. N.S. Anusha (02:25.849).

Fynbos delivers in the feature event

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Fynbos (Trevor up), won the Benaka Developers Fillies Championship Stakes (1,600m), the first classic event of the season held here on Sunday (June 15). The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Vispi R. Patel & Miss. Anita J. Captain.

Trevor confidently kept his gutsy filly in handy third or fourth position for a while. then racing in mid bunch till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Fynbos responded well to the reminders, overtook stable-mate Bishop in the last 100m to win comfortably.

THE RESULTS:

1. MALENAHALLI PLATE (1,400M): STAR OF INDIA (Neeraj) 1, Recreator (Koshi K) 2, Embosom (Jagadeesh) 3 and Verrazzano (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 7-1/4, Nk and 1/2. 1m, 28.21s. ₹17 (w), 12, 24 and 17 (p), SHP: 78, THP: 40, FP: 169, Q: 119, Trinella: 515/123, Exacta: 1,833.808. Favourite: Star Of India. Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs, Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj & Mr. P.J. Vazifdar. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

2. AMOKBASH MILLION (DIV. II), (1,100M): INDIAN BROCADE (Suraj) 1, Flight Of Fancy (S. Saqlain) 2, Supernal (R. Ajinkya) 3 and Divine Secret (Neeraj) 4. 6-3/4, 2-1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 06.39s. ₹18 (w), 12, 12 and 25 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 48, FP: 48, Q: 21, Trinella: 193/117, Exacta: 334/84. Favourite: Indian Brocade. Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

3. STEWARDS CUP (1,400M): MANDARINO (Sandesh) 1, Positano (Akshay K) 2, Invincible (Angad) 3 and Stellantis (Ramswarup) 4. 5-3/4, 3/4 and Lnk. 1m, 25.16s. ₹45 (w), 16, 11 and 150 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 342, FP: 65, Q: 28, Trinella: 2,790/4,783, Exacta: 12,915/6,642. Favourite: Positano. Owners: Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. J. Ramesh & Mr. M.V. Balaji. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. AMOKBASH MILLION (DIV. I), (1,100M): AKITANIA (C. Umesh) 1, Konkrah (Sandesh) 2, Double Your Money (Sai Kiran) 3 and Mnemosyne (Suraj) 4. 2-1/4, 3-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 06.88s. ₹28 (w), 13, 11 and 21 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 40, FP: 60, Q: 50, Trinella: 391/194, Exacta: 929/205. Favourite: Konkrah. Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: James McKeown.

5. BENAKA DEVELOPERS FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600M): FYNBOS (KINGDA KA-MAHALI) TREVOR 1, Bishop (Deauville-Winds Of Fortune) G. Vivek 2, Mountain Jewel (Deauville-Kanchenjunga) Antony 3 and Northern Waves (Dreamfield- Fly With The Wind) Sai Kiran 4. Not run: Ravishing Beauty. 3-3/4, 1-3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 37.90s. ₹18 (w), 12, 22 and 38 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 96, FP: 78, Q: 48, Trinella: 938/536, Exacta: 6,224/2,257. Favourite: Fynbos. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Vispi R. Patel & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: P. Shroff.

6. PARSIANA PLATE (1,400M): VYASA (G. Vivek) 1, Victoria Doresaani (Pavan) 2, Star Concept (Shezad Khan) 3 and Aquamatic (Akshay K) 4. 2-3/4, 6-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 25.94s. ₹23 (w), 13, 10 and 34 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 65, FP: 43, Q: 19, Trinella: 213/127, Exacta: 511/153. Favourite: Victoria Doresaani. Owner and trainer: Mr. Darius R. Byramji.

7. RICHELIEU PLATE (1,400M): KNOTTY SCOTTY (G. Vivek) 1, Sassy Sarah (S. Shareef) 2, Thrill Of Brazil (I. Chisty) 3 and Mutual Trust (Darshan) 4. 1-3/4, 1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 26.11s. ₹24 (w), 13, 14 and 16 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 43, FP: 77, Q: 40, Trinella: 155/99, Exacta: 1,071/734. Favourite: Knotty Scotty. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. Darshan Uppini & Dr. N. Swaroop Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹868 (771 tkts.); Runner-up: 183 (1,564 tkts.); Treble (i): 258 (52 tkts.); (ii): 71 (315 tkts.).

Rewarding a champion: BTC chairman R. Manjunath Ramesh, third from left, and D. Narahari, president, Benaka Developers and Project Pvt. Ltd., fourth from left, with Fynbos' trainer Pesi Shroff, jockey Trevor, Anita Captain, Dhunjibhoy, and Vispi R. Patel. K. MURALI KUMAR